











# Romeo and Juliet

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WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

ROMEO AND JULIET

WITH AN INTRODUCTION

BY

RICHARD HENRY STODDARD

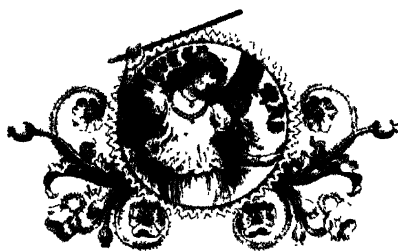
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JACQUES WAGREZ

AND

LOUIS THIZ



NEW-YORK

1892



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## ROMEO AND JULIET

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*Whether the story of Romeo and Juliet as it has come down to us was founded on an actual occurrence, or was a poetic legend invented by some pathetic romancer, is open to question, if one cares to consider it critically. Its first narrator was Luigi da Porto, of Vicenza, who, dying in 1529, left it in the form of a novel, which was published six years later under the title of LA GIULIETTA. He professed to have learned it from an archer named Peregrino, who was, he says, a man about fifty years old, well practiced in the military art, a pleasant companion, and, like all his countrymen of Verona, a great talker. That this talkative archer, (if he ever existed), drew the long bow in telling his story seems probable, since it was not known to the early annalists of Verona, one of whom, Torello Sarayna, wrote a history of that city which was published thirteen years after da Porto's novel, wherein it was not mentioned. He was followed by another Italian*

annalist, Girolamo della Corte, who, bringing the history of Verona down to 1560, relates it as a real event, which happened in 1303. He was preceded, however, by Matteo Bandello, who published at Lucca, in 1554, a novel founded on this event, which he declared was related to him at the baths of Caldera by Captain Alexander Peregrino, who would seem to have advanced in his profession since he had the honor of conversing with Messer da Porto at Vicenza. Not long after Bandello came Pierre Boisteau, who turned these Italian narratives into a French novel; and not long after Boisteau came Arthur Brooke, who, two years before the birth of Shakespeare, recast his version and that of Bandello in an English poem, which he, or his bookseller, called THE TRAGICALL HYSTORY OF ROMEOUS AND JULIET. Five years afterward came William Painter, who related the story in prose, in his PALACE OF PLEASURE. Such, so far as it has been traced, is the origin of the tragedy of ROMEO AND JULIET. That is to say, its direct literary origin, for other origins, remote, recondite, subtle, shadowy, have been suggested by ingenious writers, who think they find its germ, its outline, in the old legends of Hero and Leander, Pyramus and Thisbe, Tristan and Isolde, and who do find it, or something akin to it, in the novels of Masuccio di Salerno, which were published more than half a century before the death of da Porto, one of which, the scene whereof is laid in Sienna, turns upon the same incidents, though not upon the same personages, Mariotto Mignanelli being the prototype of Romeo, and Gianozza of Juliet.

That the story of Romeo and Juliet would, when it

was once known, attract the attention of dramatists as well as novelists was certain. Its dramatic interest was perceived by two Spanish playwrights, Lopez de Vega, and Don Francisca de Roxas, and the Italian, Luigi Gioto, who in 1578 composed a tragedy on the subject, which he said was taken from the history of his native place, Adria. Nor were these all. For in his address to the readers of his poem Master Brooke declared that he had seen the same argument lately set forth on the stage with a commendation that he could not look for, it was so much better set forth there, though he trusted that the same matter penned as it was might serve to the like good effect, if its readers . . . would bring with them like good minds. It is to be wished that Brooke had stated where he saw the play to which he referred, whether it was in England, which the commentators think improbable, or on the Continent, which he may never have visited. As it is, we only know that he saw a play the argument of which was the same as that of his poem. That there may have been other plays than the one referred to by Brooke, Collier, however, thinks not unlikely, though no record of them now remains, the story itself was so popular. Delapicend in the argument to his PLEASANT FABLE OF HERMAPHRODITUS AND SALMACIS (165), mentioned "a noble mayden in the cyty of Verona, in Italye, which loved Romeus, eldest sonne of the Lorde Montesch., and beinge pryvely maryed togyther, he at last poysoned hym self for love of her; she, for sorowe of his deathe, slewe her selfe in the same tombe with hys dagger". Rich, in his DIALOGUE BETWEEN MERCURY AND A SOLDIER (1574), says that "the pittifull history of Ro-

*meus and Julietta* " was so well known as to be represented in tapestry, and Saker, in his *NARBONUS* (1580), wrote, " Had Romeus bewrayed his mariage at the first, and manifested the intent of his meaning, he had done wisely, and gotten license for the lives of two faithful friends".

The authorities that Shakespeare followed in *ROMEO AND JULIET* were the poem of Brooke and the story of Painter, the materials for which were derived from da Porto through Bandello and Boisteau, with variations and additions from their own pens. To judge Brooke and Painter by other standards than obtained when they wrote, would be to judge them wrongly. In spite of its much-writing, the period in which they lived was not a literary age, there being no acknowledged models either in verse or prose. There was no narrative verse from which Brooke could have learned anything of value, for Chaucer's was as antiquated then as now, while Sackville's *INDUCTION*, which was the only poetic portion of *THE MIRROR FOR MAGISTRATES*, was not published until a year after his own poem. Nor was there any prose a study of which would have been of advantage to Painter, who, if he had been contemporaneous with, instead of antecedent to, Lilly and Greene would have been harmed rather than helped by their mannered stories. Sidney's *ARCADIA* and Marlowe's *HERO AND LEANDER* were still to come. Read as they should be, by the light of the times of Elizabeth, which were not spacious in letters until Sidney and Marlowe, and Spenser and Shakespeare began to write, the prose of Painter and the verse of Brooke are, if not remarkable, far from contemptible. They are stiff and cumbrous, perhaps,

like old brocade, the pattern is obsolete, the embroidery excessive, but it is costly, heavy with gold and jewels. There are fine lines, touches of feeling, in Brooke, whose versification is unfortunate in its suggestions of balladry, and there is a dignity in Painter, which might have belonged to Polonius before he became too prolix. Lovers of Elizabethan literature are familiar with harder reading than they find in Brooke and Painter, who are of inestimable value to the student of Shakespeare, in that beyond all their fellows they enable him to understand, they reveal to him, the exquisite beauty, the consummate dramatic art, the glory and greatness of the Master Poet.

• That *ROMEO AND JULIET* is an early, a very early, play of Shakespeare is evident to those who have studied his work at its different periods, and various years have been assigned, or conjectured, as the actual date of its composition. When first printed in 1597, it was stated, on the title page, to have been often publicly played, with great applause, by the Servants of Lord Hunsdon. In the second quarto, printed in 1599, it was stated, on the title page, to have been newly corrected, augmented, and amended, and to have been publicly acted by the Servants of the Lord Chamberlain. The dates of the first and second quartos are of importance as showing the popularity of the play, but there their importance ends. For, as Knight observes, "The first date of the printing of any play of Shakespeare goes a very short way to determine the date of its theatrical production. We are very much in the dark as to the mode in which a play passed from one form of publication, that of the theatre, into another form of pu-

blication, that of the press. We have no evidence to show, in any case, that the original publication through the press, of any of Shakespeare's separate plays had the sanction of their author." What rights were conceded to authors in the days of Shakespeare, it is not easy to determine; but it is safe to say that they were few, unless the authors were persons of social consequence, and not of a kind that printers were obliged to respect. These gentlemen had an understanding among themselves, rules and regulations which they adopted and enforced for their own benefit, and as a protection against each other; but in none was there any recognition of any supposable right of property in any literary production. How could there be property in a book before it was printed, and why purchase what they could procure for nothing? The presses of London swarmed with stolen manuscripts, and among them were surreptitious copies of the plays of Shakespeare. They were not written to be read, but to be acted, — not for the commendations of lovers of poetry, but for the entertainment of audiences at the Blackfriars, the Globe, or wherever they were brought out, and it was to the interest of Shakespeare, as well as to the interest of the manager with whom he was a shareholder, to keep them out of print. But it was to the interest of piratical printers to get them into print, and, if possible, while they were seen and talked about; so they were got into print speedily. They may have obtained copies through the actors who played in them, or they may have had copies taken down by shorthand, of which two systems were known in England before the earliest quarto was published. The nefarious and hasty,

methods of these old printers explain the imperfections of the quartos, as their title pages, which they generally wrote themselves, explain, with conspicuous inexactness, what the reader may expect, the first quarto of ROMEO AND JULIET calling itself "An excellent conceited Tragedie", the second calling itself "The most excellent and lamentable Tragedie".

There are many conjectures in regard to the year, or years, when ROMEO AND JULIET was, or — to be more exact — might have been written. Malone believed that it was begun in 1591, and finished in 1596. Chalmers assigned its composition to the spring of 1592, and Drake placed it a year later. Hudson was of opinion that in its original state it was produced somewhere between 1591 and 1595, and Dyce thought it might have been in hand as early as 1591. White, however, agreed with neither of these editors but, always ingenious and scholarly, set forth a theory of his own, wherein he controverted Malone's belief that Shakespeare began the play in 1591, and finished it in 1596. Here is his theory: — "In his day, plays were rapidly written, or rewritten, to supply an immediate demand, and he was manifestly one of the most business-like as well as prolific of playwrights. That any dramatist of his period, and he of all, kept a play on the stocks five years, is so extremely improbable as to be believed only upon positive and trustworthy testimony. But on the contrary, that in 1591, Shakespeare and one or more practitioners for the stage composed a Romeo and Juliet in partnership, and that in 1596 Shakespeare corrected, augmented, and amended it, making it to all in-



tents and purposes entirely his own, and that it then met with such great success that an unscrupulous publisher obtained as much as he could of it, by hook or by crook, and had the deficiencies supplied, as well as could be, by bits from the play of 1591, and, when that failed, by poets as unscrupulous as himself, is entirely accordant with the practices of that day, and reconciles all the facts in this particular case, even the two that the play contains a reference which indicates 1591 as the year when it was written, and that in 1596 it was published in haste to take advantage of a great and sudden popularity. This I believe to be the history of its production and its publication."

The longest, if not the strongest, of the many arguments in favor of a very early date for the writing of *ROMEO AND JULIET* was advanced by Knight, who, following Tyrwhitt, by whom it was first suggested, fixed upon 1591, his selection of that particular year resting upon the rambling statement of the Nurse in Scene III Act I, that when Juliet, who was weaned, refused her dug, upon which she had laid wormwood, it was eleven years since the earthquake. There was an earthquake in England in 1580, — a sudden and terrible earthquake, which about six o'clock towards evening made the great clock bell in the palace of Westminster strike of itself against the hammer, and divers other clocks and bells in London and elsewhere do the same. The gentlemen of the Temple, being then at supper, ran from the tables, and out of their hall with their knives in their hands. The people assembled at the play houses in the fields, doubting the ruin of the galleries, made haste to be gone. A piece of the

Temple Church fell, stones fell from Saint Paul's, and also from Christ Church, near to Newgate Market, in sermon time. Great was the amazement, and earnest the prayers to Almighty God. A recollection of this earthquake (which occurred before he was sixteen) was, Knight argued, in the mind of Shakespeare when he sat down to write ROMEO AND JULIET, and was used by him, with the addition of the eleven years, about which the Nurse babbled, as a biographical memorandum of the date of the writing, and also utilized to call up some associations in the minds of his audience. "He knew the double world in which an excited audience lives, — the half belief in the world of poetry amongst which they are placed during a theatrical representation, and the half consciousness of the external world of their ordinary life. The ready disposition of every audience to make a transition from the scene before them to the scene in which they ordinarily move, — to assimilate what is shadowy and distant with what is distinct and at hand, — is perfectly well known to all who are acquainted with the machinery of the drama. Actors seize upon the principle to perpetuate the grossest violations of good taste; and authors who write for present applause invariably do the same when they offer us, in their dialogue, a passing allusion, which is technically called a clap-trap. In the case before us, even if Shakespeare had not this principle in view, the association of the English earthquake must have been strongly in his mind when he made the Nurse date from an earthquake."

The story of Romeo and Juliet is one to which a young  
~~page 60~~ <sup>1</sup>ld be drawn by the sweetness of its love, and the

tenderness of its sorrow. It would appeal to him because he possessed the emotions which it embodied, and he would translate himself into it with all the warmth of his nature. That it was seized by Shakespeare at the age of twenty-seven, as Knight maintained, was what might be expected. He was young enough to feel it, old enough to understand it, and poet enough to immortalize it. That he was a poet when he wrote *THE COMEDY OF ERRORS*, *THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA*, and *LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST* was evident; but that he was a great poet was not certain until he wrote *ROMEO AND JULIET*. That it belongs to the same period as these comedies there needs no ghost to come from the grave to tell us. It is marked and marred by the same qualities, the same abundance of rhymed couplets, the same fondness for conceits, the same writing for mere writing's sake. But it is characterized by higher qualities, by fewer errors of taste, by more serious thought, more imagination, and more dramatic art. Poet and dramatist wrestle, but it is not a death struggle, and in the falls the dramatist is not always underneath. A shapely whole, the scenes and acts into which it is rounded grow out of each other, and follow each other, in their natural and fatal order. The movement is swift, the end inevitable, the first riotous brawl of the servants in the streets foretelling the last solemn meeting of their masters in the churchyard. It ought to have had a happier ending, for in a conflict between what is best in the world and what is worst, the worst ought not to be triumphant always: love should sometimes find out the way to hold his kingdom against the hosts of his enemy, hatred; the day should not always be overcast.

*with clouds, nor the sun darkened with storms before its setting. But it was not to be. It was not in the Capulets and Montagues. A factious race, they were born with rancorous tongues, and to the use of swords, and when they quarrelled, as they must, their tongues dropped gall, and their swords sought blood. An evil race, they rose in the morning and laid down at night in the shadow of their doom. Such are the elements of the story of Romeo and Juliet, as told by Brooke and Painter. But such are not the elements of their story as told by Shakespeare, who saw in the tragedy of their lives what none had seen before, — the flush of youth, the fervor of feeling, the tenderness of love, the anguish of separation, the pity and pathos of death, and, translating them through his heart, transfigured them through his genius into an incomparable play, an imperishable poem. As a play it will keep the stage as long as there are lovers; as a poem it will be read as long as there are poets and critics. Great poets in all lands have delighted in it, and the greatest critics have studied it with profound admiration, no one more so than Schlegel, whose glowing words are worthy of the work they celebrate: "Whatever is most intoxicating in the odor of a southern spring, languishing in the song of the nightingale, or voluptuous in the first opening of the rose, is breathed into this poem. But even more rapidly than the earliest blossoms of youth and beauty decay, it hurries on from the first timidly-told declaration of love and modest return to the most unlimited passion, to an irrevocable union; then, amidst alternating storms of rapture and despair, to the death of the two lovers, who still appear en-*

*viable as their love survives them, and as by their death they have obtained a triumph over every separating power. The sweetest and the bitterest, love and hatred, festivity and dark forebodings, tender embraces and sepulchres, the fulness of life and self-annihilation, are all here brought close to each other; and all these contrasts are so blended in the harmonious and wonderful work into a unity of impression, that the echo which the whole leaves behind in the mind resembles a single but endless sigh."*

R. H. STODDARD.

# Romeo and Juliet

## DRAMATIS PERSONÆ

ESCALUS, Prince of Verona.

PARIS, a young nobleman, kinsman to the prince.

MONTAGUE, { heads of two houses at variance with each other.  
CAPULET, {

An old man, cousin to Capulet.

ROMEO, son to Montague.

MERCUTIO, kinsman to the prince, and friend to Romeo.

BENVOLIO, nephew to Montague, and friend to Romeo

TYBALT, nephew to Lady Capulet.

FRIAR LAURENCE, Franciscans.

FRIAR JOHN,

BALTHASAR, servant to Romeo.

SAMPSON, { servants to Capulet.  
GREGORY, {

PETER, servant to Juliet's nurse.

ABRAHAM, servant to Montague.

An Apothecary

Three Musicians.

Page to Paris; another Page; an Officer.

LADY MONTAGUE, wife to Montague.

LADY CAPULET, wife to Capulet.

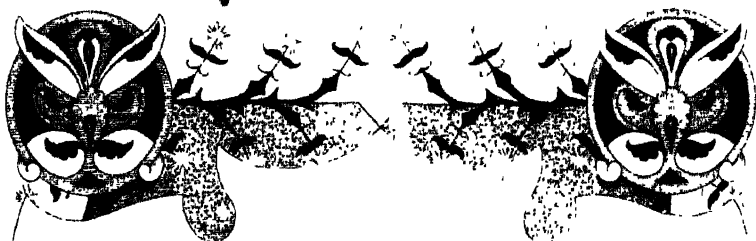
JULIET, daughter to Capulet

Nurse to Juliet.

Citizens of Verona; several Men and Women, relations to both houses; Maskers, Guards, Watchmen, and Attendants.

Chorus.

SCENE : Verona-Mantua.



## PROLOGUE

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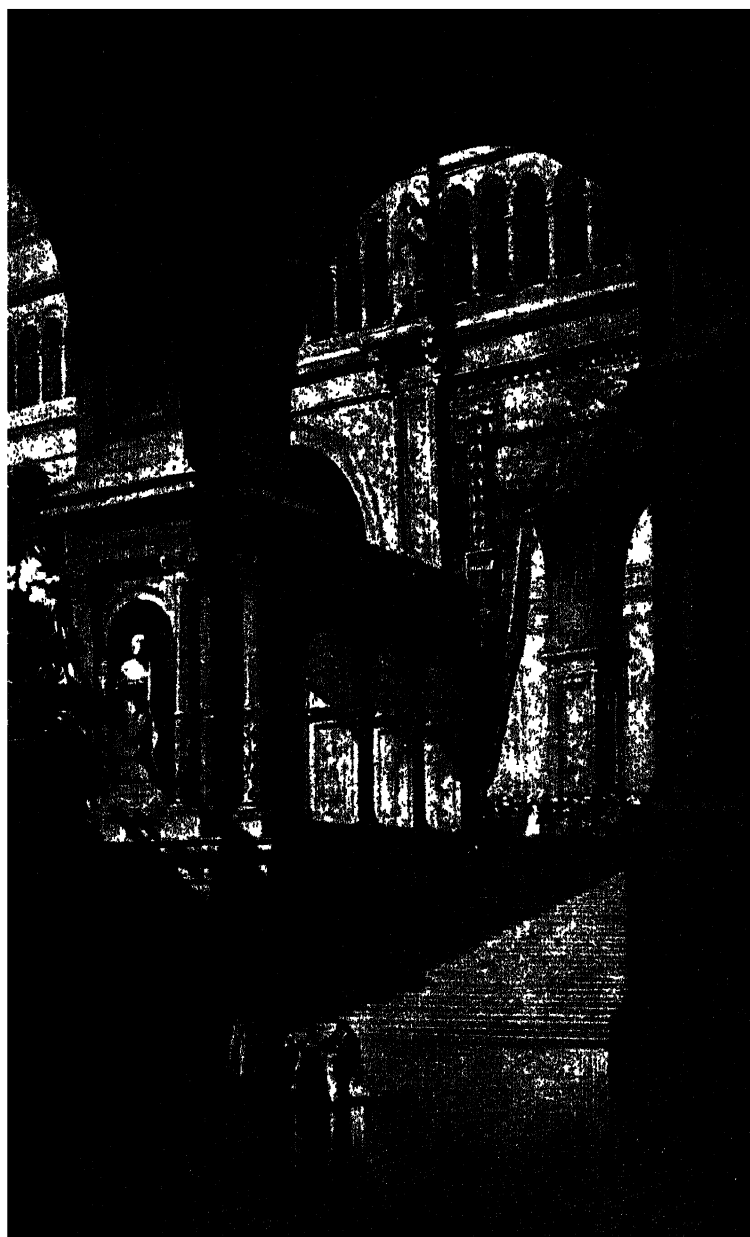
Two households, both alike in dignity,  
In fair Verona, where we lay our scene,  
From ancient grudge break to new mutiny,  
Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.  
From forth the fatal loins of these two foes  
A pair of star-cross'd lovers take their life;  
Whose misadventur'd piteous overthrows  
Do with their death bury their parents' strife.  
The fearful passage of their death-mark'd love,  
And the continuance of their parents' rage,  
Which, but their children's end, nought could remove,  
Is now the two hours' traffic of our stage;  
The which if you with patient ears attend,  
What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to mend.

















## ACT I

### SCENE I

VERONA — A PUBLIC PLACE

*Enter SAMPSON and GREGORY, of the house of Capulet,  
armed with swords and bucklers.*

SAMPSON.

Gregory, o' my word, we'll not carry coals.

GREGORY.

No, for then we should be colliers.

SAMPSON.

I mean, an we be in choler, we'll draw

GREGORY.

Ay, while you live, draw your neck out o' th' collar.

SAMPSON.

I strike quickly, being mov'd.

GREGORY.

But thou art not quickly mov'd to strike.

SAMPSON.

A dog of the house of Montague moves me.

GREGORY.

To move is to stir; and to be valiant is to stand :  
therefore, if thou art mov'd, thou runn'st away.

SAMPSON.

A dog of that house shall move me to stand : I will  
take the wall of any man or maid of Montague's.

GREGORY.

That shows thee a weak slave; for the weakest goes  
to the wall.

SAMPSON.

True; and therefore women, being the weaker vessels,  
are ever thrust to the wall : therefore I will push Mon-  
tague's men from the wall, and thrust his maids to the  
wall.

GREGORY.

The quarrel is between our masters and us their  
men.

SAMPSON.

'T is all one, I will show myself a tyrant : when I  
have fought with the men, I will be cruel with the  
maids, and cut off their heads.

GREGORY.

The heads of the maids?

SAMPSON.

Ay, the heads of the maids, or their maidenheads ;  
take it in what sense thou wilt.

GREGORY.

They must take it in sense that feel it.

SAMPSON

Me they shall feel while I am able to stand : and  
't is known I am a pretty piece of flesh.

GREGORY.

'T is well thou art not fish ; if thou hadst, thou  
hadst been poor John. Draw thy tool ; here comes  
two of the house of the Montagues.

SAMPSON.

My naked weapon is out : quarrel, I will back thee.

GREGORY.

How ! turn thy back and run ?

SAMPSON

Fear me not.

GREGORY.

No, marry ; I fear thee !

SAMPSON.

Let us take the law of our sides ; let them begin.

GREGORY.

I will frown as I pass by, and let them take it as they  
list.

SAMPSON.

Nay, as they dare. I will bite my thumb at them ;  
which is a disgrace to them, if they bear it



*Enter ABRAHAM and BALTHASAR.*

ABRAHAM.

Do you bite your thumb at us, sir?

SAMPSON

I do bite my thumb, sir.

ABRAHAM.

Do you bite your thumb at us, sir?

SAMPSON, *aside to Gregory.*

Is the law of our side, if I say ay?

GREGORY.

No.

SAMPSON.

No, sir, I do not bite my thumb at you, sir, but I bite my thumb, sir.

GREGORY.

Do you quarrel, sir?

ABRAHAM.

Quarrel, sir! no, sir.

SAMPSON.

If you do, sir, I am for you : I serve as good a man as you.

ABRAHAM.

No better.

SAMPSON.

Well, sir.

GREGORY.

Say "better" : here comes one of my master's kinsmen.

ACT I, SCENE I

9

SAMPSON.

Yes, better, sir.

ABRAHAM.

You lie.

SAMPSON.

Draw, if you be men. Gregory, remember thy swashing blow.

They fight.

*Enter* BENVOLIO.

BENVOLIO.

Part, fools!

Put up your swords; you know not what you do.

Beats down their swords.

*Enter* TYBALT.

TYBALT.

What, art thou drawn among these heartless hinds?

Turn thee, Benvolio, look upon thy death.

BENVOLIO.

I do but keep the peace : put up thy sword,

Or manage it to part these men with me,

TYBALT.

What, drawn, and talk of peace! I hate the word,

As I hate hell, all Montagues, and thee :

Have at thee, coward!

They fight.

*Enter several of both houses, who join the fray;  
then enter CITIZENS, with clubs and bills.*

FIRST CITIZEN.

Clubs, bills, and partisans! strike! beat them down!  
Down with the Capulets! down with the Montagues!

*Enter CAPULET in his gown, and LADY CAPULET.*

CAPULET.

What noise is this? Give me my long sword, ho!

LADY CAPULET.

A crutch, a crutch! why call you for a sword?

CAPULET.

My sword, I say! old Montague is come,  
And flourishes his blade in spite of me.

*Enter MONTAGUE and LADY MONTAGUE.*

MONTAGUE.

Thou villain Capulet, — Hold me not, let me go.

LADY MONTAGUE.

Thou shalt not stir a foot to seek a foe.

*Enter PRINCE, with ATTENDANTS.*

PRINCE.

Rebellious subjects, enemies to peace,  
Profaners of this neighbour-stained steel, —  
Will they not hear? What, ho! you men, you beasts,  
That quench the fire of your pernicious rage  
With purple fountains issuing from your veins,

ACT I, SCENE I

On pain of torture, from those bloody hands,  
Throw your mistemper'd weapons to the ground,  
And hear the sentence of your moved prince.  
Three civil brawls, bred of an airy word,  
By thee, old Capulet, and Montague,  
Have thrice disturb'd the quiet of our streets,  
And made Verona's ancient citizens  
Cast by their grave beseeming ornaments,  
To wield old partisans, in hands as old,  
Canker'd with peace, to part your canker'd hate :  
If ever you disturb our streets again,  
Your lives shall pay the forfeit of the peace.  
For this time, all the rest depart away ;  
You, Capulet, shall go along with me :  
And, Montague, come you this afternoon,  
To know our further pleasure in this case,  
To old Free-town, our common judgement-place.  
Once more, on pain of death, all men depart.

Exeunt all but Montague, Lady Montague and Benvolio

MONTAGUE.

Who set this ancient quarrel new abroad ?  
Speak, nephew, were you by when it began ?

BENVOLIO.

Here were the servants of your adversary,  
And yours, close fighting ere I did approach :  
I drew to part them : in the instant came  
The fiery Tybalt, with his sword prepar'd,  
Which, as he breath'd defiance to my ears,  
He swung about his head and cut the winds,

Who nothing hurt withal hiss'd him in scorn :  
 While we were interchanging thrusts and blows,  
 Came more and more and fought on part and part,  
 Till the Prince came, who parted either part.

LADY MONTAGUE.

O, where is Romeo? saw you him to-day?  
 Right glad I am he was not at this fray.

BENVOLIO.

Madam, an hour before the worshipp'd sun  
 Peer'd forth the golden window of the east,  
 A troubled mind drave me to walk abroad;  
 Where, underneath the grove of sycamore  
 That westward rooteth from the city's side,  
 So early walking did I see your son :  
 Towards him I made, but he was ware of me  
 And stole into the covert of the wood :  
 I, measuring his affections by my own,  
 That most are busied when they're most alone,  
 Pursu'd my humour not pursuing his,  
 And gladly shunn'd who gladly fled from me.

MONTAGUE.

Many a morning hath he there been seen,  
 With tears augmenting the fresh morning's dew,  
 Adding to clouds more clouds with his deep sighs;  
 But all so soon as the all-cheering sun  
 Should in the furthest east begin to draw  
 The shady curtains from Aurora's bed,  
 Away from light steals home my heavy son,  
 And private in his chamber pens himself,  
 Shuts up his windows, locks fair daylight out

And makes himself an artificial night :  
Black and portentous must this humour prove,  
Unless good counsel may the cause remove.

BENVOLIO.

My noble uncle, do you know the cause?

MONTAGUE.

I neither know it nor can learn of him.

BENVOLIO.

Have you importun'd him by any means?

MONTAGUE.

Both by myself and many other friends :  
But he, his own affections' counsellor,  
Is to himself — I will not say how true —  
But to himself so secret and so close,  
So far from sounding and discovery,  
As is the bud bit with an envious worm,  
Ere he can spread his sweet leaves to the air,  
Or dedicate his beauty to the sun.  
Could we but learn from whence his sorrows grow,  
We would as willingly give cure as know.

*Enter ROMEO.*

BENVOLIO.

See, where he comes : so please you, step aside ;  
I'll know his grievance, or be much deny'd.

MONTAGUE.

I would thou wert so happy by thy stay,  
To hear true shrift. Come, madam, let's away.

*Exeunt Montague and Lady.*

BENVOLIO.

Good morrow, cousin.

ROMEO.

Is the day so young?

BENVOLIO.

But new struck nine.

ROMEO.

Ay me! sad hours seem long.

Was that my father that went hence so fast?

BENVOLIO.

It was. What sadness lengthens Romeo's hours?

ROMEO.

Not having that, which, having, makes them short.

BENVOLIO.

In love?

ROMEO.

Out —

BENVOLIO.

Of love?

ROMEO.

Out of her favour, where I am in love.

BENVOLIO.

Alas, that love, so gentle in his view,

Should be so tyrannous and rough in proof!

ROMEO.

Alas, that love, whose view is muffled still,

Should, without eyes, see pathways to his will!

Where shall we dine? O me! What fray was here?

Yet tell me not, for I have heard it all.

Here's much to do with hate, but more with love.

Why, then, O brawling love! O loving hate!

O any thing, of nothing first create!  
O heavy lightness! serious vanity!  
Mis-shapen chaos of well-seeming forms!  
Feather of lead, bright smoke, cold fire, sick health!  
Still-waking sleep, that is not what it is!  
This love feel I, that feel no love in this.  
Dost thou not laugh?

BENVOLIO.

No, coz, I rather weep.

ROMEO.

Good heart, at what?

BENVOLIO.

At thy good heart's oppression.

ROMEO.

Why, such is love's transgression.  
Griefs of mine own lie heavy in my breast,  
Which thou wilt propagate, to have it prest  
With more of thine: this love that thou hast shown  
Doth add more grief to too much of mine own.  
Love is a smoke rais'd with the fume of sighs;  
Being purg'd, a fire sparkling in lovers' eyes;  
Being vex'd, a sea nourish'd with lovers' tears:  
What is it else? a madness most discreet,  
A choking gall and a preserving sweet.  
Farewell, my coz.

BENVOLIO.

Soft! I will go along;  
An if you leave me so, you do me wrong.

ROMEO.

Tut, I have lost myself; I am not here;



This is not Romeo, he's some other where.

BENVOLIO.

Tell me in sadness who is that you love.

ROMEO.

What, shall I groan and tell thee?

BENVOLIO.

Groan ! why, no ;

But sadly tell me who.

ROMEO.

Bid a sick man in sadness make his will :

Ah, word ill urg'd to one that is so ill !

In sadness, cousin, I do love a woman.

BENVOLIO.

I aim'd so near, when I suppos'd you lov'd.

ROMEO.

A right good marksman ! And she's fair I love.

BENVOLIO.

A right fair mark, fair coz, is soonest hit.

ROMEO.

Well, in that hit you miss : she'll not be hit

With Cupid's arrow ; she hath Dian's wit ;

And, in strong proof of chastity well arm'd,

From love's weak childish bow she lives unharm'd.

She will not stay the siege of loving terms,

Nor bide the encounter of assailing eyes,

Nor ope her lap to saint-seducing gold :

O, she is rich in beauty, only poor,

That when she dies with beauty dies her store.

BENVOLIO.

Then she hath sworn that she will still live chaste?

ROMEO.

She hath, and in that sparing makes huge waste,  
For beauty starv'd with her severity  
Cuts beauty off from all posterity.  
She is too fair, too wise, wisely too fair,  
To merit bliss by making me despair :  
She hath forsworn to love, and in that vow  
Do I live dead that live to tell it now.

BENVOLIO.

Be rul'd by me, forget to think of her.

ROMEO.

O, teach me how I should forget to think.

BENVOLIO.

By giving liberty unto thine eyes ;  
Examine other beauties.

ROMEO.

'T is the way  
To call hers exquisite, in question more :  
These happy masks that kiss fair ladies' brows  
Being black put us in mind they hide the fair ;  
He that is stricken blind cannot forget  
The precious treasure of his eyesight lost :  
Show me a mistress that is passing fair,  
What doth her beauty serve, but as a note  
Where I may read who pass'd that passing fair ?  
Farewell : thou canst not teach me to forget.

BENVOLIO.

I 'll pay that doctrine, or else die in debt.

Exeunt.

## SCENE II

A STREET.

*Enter CAPULET, PARIS, and SERVANT.*

CAPULET.

But Montague is bound as well as I,  
In penalty alike; and 't is not hard, I think,  
For men so old as we to keep the peace.

PARIS.

Of honourable reckoning are you both;  
And pity 't is you liv'd at odds so long.  
But now, my lord, what say you to my suit?

CAPULET.

But saying o'er what I have said before  
My child is yet a stranger in the world;  
She hath not seen the change of fourteen years;  
Let two more summers wither in their pride,  
Ere we may think her ripe to be a bride.

PARIS.

Younger than she are happy mothers made.

CAPULET.

And too soon marr'd are those so early made.  
The earth hath swallow'd all my hopes but she,  
She is the hopeful lady of my earth:  
But woo her, gentle Paris, get her heart,  
My will to her consent is but a part;  
An she agree, within her scope of choice  
Lies my consent and fair according voice.

This night I hold an old accustom'd feast,  
 Whereto I have invited many a guest,  
 Such as I love; and you, among the store,  
 One more, most welcome, makes my number more.  
 At my poor house look to behold this night  
 Earth-treading stars that make dark heaven light  
 Such comfort as do lusty young men feel  
 When well-apparell'd April on the heel  
 Of limping winter treads, even such delight  
 Among fresh female buds shall you this night  
 Inherit at my house; hear all, all see,  
 And like her most whose merit most shall be.  
 Such amongst view of many, mine being one  
 May stand in number, though in reckoning none.  
 Come, go with me.

To Servant, giving a paper.

Go, sirrah, trudge about  
 Through fair Verona; find those persons out  
 Whose names are written there, and to them say,  
 My house and welcome on their pleasure stay.

Exit Capulet and Paris

SERVANT.

Find them out whose names are written here! It is  
 written, that the shoemaker should meddle with his  
 yard, and the tailor with his last, the fisher with his  
 pencil, and the painter with his nets; but I am sent to  
 find those persons whose names are here writ, and can  
 never find what names the writing person hath here  
 writ. I must to the learned -- In good time.

## ROMEO AND JULIET

*Enter BENVOLIO and ROMEO.*

BENVOLIO.

Tut, man, one fire burns out another's burning,  
One pain is lessen'd by another's anguish;  
Turn giddy, and be holp by backward turning;  
One desperate grief cures with another's languish:  
Take thou some new infection to thy eye,  
And the rank poison of the old will die.

ROMEO.

Your plaintain-leaf is excellent for that.

BENVOLIO.

For what, I pray thee?

ROMEO.

For your broken shin.

BENVOLIO.

Why, Romeo, art thou mad?

ROMEO.

Not mad, but bound more than a madman is;  
Shut up in prison, kept without my food,  
Whipp'd and tormented and — God-den, good fellow.

SERVANT.

God gi' god-den. I pray, sir, can you read?

ROMEO.

Ay, mine own fortune in my misery.

SERVANT.

Perhaps you have learn'd it without book; but, I  
pray, can you read any thing you see?

ROMEO.

Ay, if I know the letters and the language.

SERVANT.

Ye say honestly : rest you merry !

ROMEO.

Stay, fellow ; I can read.

Reads.

*Signior Martino and his wife and daughters ; County Anselme and his beauteous sisters ; the lady widow of Vitruvio ; Signior Placentio and his lovely nieces ; Mercutio and his brother Valentine ; mine uncle Capulet, his wife, and daughters ; my fair niece Rosaline ; Livia ; Signior Valentio and his cousin Tybalt ; Lucio and the lively Helena.*

A fair assembly : whither should they come ?

SERVANT.

Up.

ROMEO.

Whither ?

SERVANT.

To supper ; to our house.

ROMEO.

Whose house ?

SERVANT.

My master's.

ROMEO.

Indeed, I should have ask'd you that before.

SERVANT.

Now I 'll tell you without asking : my master is the great rich Capulet ; and if you be not of the house

of Montagues, I pray, come <sup>\*</sup>and crush a cup of wine. Rest you merry!

Exit

BENVOLIO.

At this same ancient feast of Capulet's  
Supps the fair Rosaline whom thou so lov'st,  
With all the admired beauties of Verona :  
Go thither ; and, with unattainted eye,  
Compare her face with some that I shall show,  
And I will make thee think thy swan a crow.

ROMEO.

When the devout religion of mine eye  
Maintains such falsehood, then turn tears to fires,  
And these, who often drown'd could never die,  
Transparent heretics, be burnt for liars !  
One fairer than my love ! the all-seeing sun  
Ne'er saw her match since first the world begun.

BENVOLIO.

Tut, you saw her fair, none else being by,  
Herself pois'd with herself in either eye :  
But in that crystal scales let there be weigh'd  
Your lady's love against some other maid  
That I will show you shining at this feast,  
And she shall scant show well that now shows best

ROMEO.

I'll go along, no such sight to be shown,  
But to rejoice in splendour of mine own.

\*

Exeunt.

SCENE III

A ROOM IN CAPULET'S HOUSE.

*Enter LADY CAPULET and NURSE.*

LADY CAPULET.

Nurse, where 's my daughter? call her forth to me.

NURSE.

Now, by my maidenhead at twelve year old,  
I bade her come. What, lamb! what, lady-bird!  
God forbid, where 's this girl? What, Juliet!

*Enter JULIET.*

JULIET.

How now, who calls?

NURSE.

Your mother

JULIET.

Madam, I am here.

What is your will?

LADY CAPULET.

This is the matter — Nurse, give leave awhile,  
We must talk in secret : — nurse, come back again ;  
I have remember'd me, thou 's hear our counsel.  
Thou know'st my daughter 's of a pretty age.

NURSE.

Faith, I can tell her age unto an hour.



LADY CAPULET.

She 's not fourteen.

NURSE.

I 'll lay fourteen of my teeth, —  
And yet, to my teen be it spoken, I have but four, —  
She is not fourteen. How long is it now  
To Lammas-tide?

LADY CAPULET.

A fortnight and odd days.

NURSE.

Even or odd, of all days in the year,  
Come Lammas-eve at night shall she be fourteen.  
Susan and she — God rest all Christian souls! —  
Were of an age : well, Susan is with God ;  
She was too good for me : but, as I said,  
On Lammas-eve at night shall she be fourteen ;  
That shall she, marry ; I remember it well.\*  
'T is since the earthquake now eleven years ;  
And she was wean'd, — I never shall forget it, —  
Of all the days of the year, upon that day :  
For I had then laid wormwood to my dug,  
Sitting in the sun under the dove-house wall ;  
My lord and you were then at Mantua : —  
Nay, I do bear a brain : — but, as I said,  
When it did taste the wormwood on the nipple  
Of my dug and felt it bitter, pretty fool,  
To see it tetchy and fall out wi' th' dug !  
Shake quoth the dove-house : 't was no need, I trow,  
To bid me trudge :  
And since that time it is eleven years ;

For then she could stand alone; nay, by the rood.  
She could have run and waddled all about;  
For even the day before, she broke her brow:  
And then my husband — God be with his soul!  
A' was a merry man — took up the child:  
“Yea,” quoth he, “dost thou fall upon thy face?  
Thou wilt fall backward when thou hast more wit;  
Wilt thou not, Jule?” and, by my holidame,  
The pretty wretch left crying and said “Ay.”  
To see, now, how a jest shall come about!  
I warrant, an I should live a thousand years,  
I never should forget it: “Wilt thou not, Jule?” quoth he;  
And, pretty fool, it stinted and said “Ay.”

LADY CAPULET.

Enough of this; I pray thee, hold thy peace.

NURSE.

Yes, madam: yet I cannot choose but laugh,  
To think it should leave crying and say “Ay.”  
And yet, I warrant, it had upon its brow  
A bump as big as a young cockerel's stone;  
A parlous knock; and it cried bitterly:  
“Yea,” quoth my husband, “fall'st upon thy face?  
Thou wilt fall backward when thou comest to age;  
Wilt thou not, Jule?” it stinted and said “Ay.”

JULIET.

And stint thou too, I pray thee, nurse, say I.

NURSE.

Peace, I have done. God mark thee to his grace!  
Thou wast the prettiest babe that e'er I nurs'd;  
An I might live to see thee married once,

I have my wish.

LADY CAPULET.

Marry, that "marry" is the very theme  
I came to talk of. Tell me, daughter Juliet,  
How stands your disposition to be married?

JULIET.

It is an honour that I dream not of.

NURSE.

An honour! were not I thine only nurse,  
I would say thou hadst suck'd wisdom from thy teat.

LADY CAPULET.

Well, think of marriage now; younger than you,  
Here in Verona, ladies of esteem,  
Are made already mothers: by my count,  
I was your mother much upon these years  
That you are now a maid. Thus then in brief:  
The valiant Paris seeks you for his love.

NURSE.

A man, young lady! lady, such a man  
As all the world — why, he's a man of wax.

LADY CAPULET.

Verona's summer hath not such a flower.

NURSE.

Nay, he's a flower; in faith, a very flower.

LADY CAPULET.

What say you? can you love the gentleman?  
This night you shall behold him at our feast;  
Read o'er the volume of young Paris' face  
And find delight writ there with beauty's pen;  
Examine every married lineament

And see how one another lends content,  
And what obscur'd in this fair volume lies  
Find written in the margent of his eyes.  
This precious book of love, this unbound lover,  
To beautify him, only lacks a cover:  
The fish lives in the sea, and 't is much pride  
For fair without the fair within to hide:  
That book in many's eyes doth share the glory,  
That in gold clasps locks in the golden story;  
So shall you share all that he doth possess,  
By having him, making yourself no less.

NURSE.

No less! nay, bigger; women grow by men.

LADY CAPULET.

Speak briefly, can you like of Paris' love?

JULIET.

I'll look to like, if looking liking move:  
But no more deep will I endart mine eye  
Than your consent gives strength to make it fly.

*Enter a SERVANT.*

SERVANT.

Madam, the guests are come, supper serv'd up, you  
call'd, my young lady ask'd for, the nurse curs'd in the  
pantry, and every thing in extremity. I must hence to  
wait; I beseech you, follow straight.

LADY CAPULET.

We follow thee. (*Exit Servant.*) Juliet, the county stays.

NURSE.

Go, girl, seek happy nights to happy days.

Exeunt.

## SCENE IV

A STREET.

*Enter* ROMEO, MERCUTIO, BENVOLIO,  
*with five or six MASKERS, TORCH-BEARERS, and others.*

ROMEO.

What, shall this speech be spoke for our excuse?  
Or shall we on without apology?

BENVOLIO.

The date is out of such prolixity :  
We 'll have no Cupid hoodwink'd with a scarf,  
Bearing a Tartar's painted bow of lath,  
Scaring the ladies like a crow-keeper ;  
Nor no without-book prologue, faintly spoke  
After the prompter, for our entrance :  
But let them measure us by what they will ;  
We 'll measure them a measure, and be gone.

ROMEO.

Give me a torch : I am not for this ambling,  
Being but heavy, I will bear the light.

MERCUTIO.

Nay, gentle Romeo, we must have you dance.

ROMEO.

Not I, believe me : you have dancing shoes

With nimble soles : I have a soul of lead  
So stakes me to the ground I cannot move.

MERCUTIO.

You are a lover; borrow Cupid's wings,  
And soar with them above a common bound.

ROMEO.

I am too sore enpierced with his shaft  
To soar with his light feathers, and so bound,  
I cannot bound a pitch above dull woe :  
Under love's heavy burthen do I sink.

MERCUTIO.

And, to sink in it, should you burthen love;  
Too great oppression for a tender thing.

ROMEO.

Is love a tender thing? it is too rough,  
Too rude, too boisterous, and it pricks like thorn

MERCUTIO.

If love be rough with you, be rough with love;  
Prick love for pricking, and you beat love down.  
Give me a case to put my visage in :

*Puts on a mask*

A visor for a visor! what care I  
What curious eye doth quote deformities?  
Here are the beetle brows shall blush for me.

LENVOLIO.

Come, knock and enter; and no sooner in,  
But every man betake him to his leg.

ROMEO.

A torch for me : let wantons light of heart  
Tickle the senseless rushes with their heels,

For I am proverb'd with a grandsire phrase;  
I'll be a candle-holder, and look on.  
The game was ne'er so fair, and I am done.

MERCUTIO.

Tut, dun's the mouse, the constable's own word  
If thou art dun, we'll draw thee from the mire  
Of this sir-reverence love, wherein thou stick'st  
Up to the ears. Come, we burn daylight, ho!

ROMEO.

Nay, that's not so.

MERCUTIO.

I mean, sir, in delay  
We waste our lights in vain, like lamps by day.  
Take our good meaning, for our judgement sits  
Five times in that ere once in our five wits.

ROMEO.

And we mean well in going to this mask;  
But 't is no wit to go.

MERCUTIO.

Why, may one ask?

ROMEO.

I dream'd a dream to-night.

MERCUTIO.

And so did I.

ROMEO.

Well, what was yours?

MERCUTIO.

That dreamers often lie.

ROMEO.

In bed asleep, while they do dream things true.

## MERCUTIO.

O, then, I see Queen Mab hath been with you.  
She is the fairies' midwife, and she comes  
In shape no bigger than an agate-stone  
On the fore-finger of an alderman,  
Drawn with a team of little atomies  
Athwart men's noses as they lie asleep;  
Her waggon-spokes made of long spinners' legs,  
The cover of the wings of grasshoppers,  
The traces of the smallest spider's web,  
The collars of the moonshine's wat'ry beams,  
Her whip of cricket's bone, the lash of film,  
Her waggoner a small grey-coated gnat,  
Not half so big as a round little worm  
Prick'd from the lazy finger of a maid;  
Her chariot is an empty hazel-nut  
Made by the joiner squirrel or old grub,  
Time out o' mind the fairies' coachmakers.  
And in this state she gallops night by night  
Through lovers' brains, and then they dream of love,  
O'er courtiers' knees, that dream on court'sies straight,  
O'er lawyers' fingers, who straight dream on fees,  
O'er ladies' lips, who straight on kisses dream,  
Which oft the angry Mab with blisters plagues,  
Because their breaths with sweetmeats tainted are.  
Sometime she gallops o'er a courtier's nose,  
And then dreams he of smelling out a suit;  
And sometime comes she with a tithe-pig's tail  
Tickling a parson's nose as a' lies asleep,  
Then dreams he of another benefice :



Sometime she driveth o'er a soldier's neck,  
 And then dreams he of cutting foreign throats,  
 Of breaches, ambuscadoes, Spanish blades,  
 Of healths five-fathom deep; and then anon  
 Drums in his ear, at which he starts and wakes,  
 And being thus frightened swears a prayer or two,  
 And sleeps again. This is that very Mab  
 That plats the manes of horses in the night,  
 And bakes the elf-locks in foul sluttish hairs,  
 Which once untangled much misfortune bodes  
 This is the hag, when maids lie on their backs,  
 That presses them and learns them first to bear,  
 Making them women of good carriage :  
 This is she —

ROMEO.

Peace, peace, Mercutio, peace !  
 Thou talk'st of nothing.

MERCUTIO.

True, I talk of dreams,  
 Which are the children of an idle brain,  
 Begot of nothing but vain fantasy,  
 Which is as thin of substance as the air  
 And more inconstant than the wind, who wooes,  
 Even now the frozen bosom of the north,  
 And, being anger'd, puffs away from thence,  
 Turning his face to the dew-dropping south.

BENVOLIO.

This wind, you talk of, blows us from ourselves;  
 Supper is done, and we shall come too late.

\* ROMEO.

I fear, too early : for my mind misgives  
Some consequence yet hanging in the stars  
Shall bitterly begin his fearful date  
With this night's revels and expire the term  
Of a despised life clos'd in my breast  
By some vile forfeit of untimely death.  
But He, that hath the steerage of my course,  
Direct my sail ! On, lusty gentlemen.

BENVOLIO.

Strike, drum.

Exeunt.

## SCENE V

A HALL IN CAPULET'S HOUSE.

MUSICIANS *waiting.* Enter SERVINGMEN, *with napkins.*

FIRST SERVINGMAN.

Where 's Potpan, that he helps not to take away?  
He shift a trencher ! he scrape a trencher !

SECOND SERVINGMAN.

When good manners shall lie all in one or two  
men's hands and they unwash'd too, 't is a foul thing.

FIRST SERVINGMAN.

Away with the joint-stools, remove the court-cup-  
board, look to the plate. Good, thou, save me a piece  
of marchpane ; and, as thou lovest me, let the porter  
let in Susan Grindstone and Nell. Antony, and Pot-  
pan !

*Romeo and Juliet.*

5

SECOND SERVINGMAN.

Ay, boy, ready.

FIRST SERVINGMAN.

You are look'd for and call'd for, ask'd for and sought for, in the great chamber.

SECOND SERVINGMAN.

We cannot be here and there too. Cheerly, boys; be brisk awhile, and the longer liver take all.

They retire.

*Enter CAPULET, with JULIET and others of his house, meeting the GUESTS and MASKERS.*

CAPULET.

Welcome, gentlemen! Ladies that have their toes  
Unplagu'd with corns will have a bout with you.  
Ah ha, my mistresses! which of you all  
Will now deny to dance? she that makes dainty,  
She, I 'll swear, hath corns; am I come near ye now?  
Welcome, gentlemen! I have seen the day  
That I have worn a visor and could tell  
A whispering tale in a fair lady's ear,  
Such as would please: 't is gone, 't is gone, 't is gone:  
You are welcome, gentlemen! Come, musicians, play.  
A hall, a hall! give room! and foot it, girls.

Music plays, and they dance

More light, you knaves; and turn the tables up,  
And quench the fire, the room is grown too hot.  
Ah, sirrah, this unlook'd-for sport comes well.  
Nay, sit, nay, sit, good cousin Capulet;

For you and I are past our dancing days :  
How long is 't now since last yourself and I  
Were in a mask ?

SECOND CAPULET.

By 'r lady, thirty years.

CAPULET.

What, man ! 't is not so much, 't is not so much :  
'Tis since the nuptial of Lucentio,  
Come pentecost as quickly as it will,  
Some five and twenty years ; and then we mask'd.

SECOND CAPULET.

'T is more, 't is more : his son is elder, sir ;  
His son is thirty.

CAPULET.

Will you tell me that ?

His son was but a ward two years ago.

ROMEO, to a Servingman.

What lady is that, which doth enrich the hand  
Of yonder knight ?

SERVINGMAN

I know not, sir.

ROMEO.

O, she doth teach the torches to burn bright !  
Her beauty hangs upon the cheek of night  
Like a rich jewel in an Ethiop's ear ;  
Beauty too rich for use, for earth too dear !  
So shows a snowy dove trooping with crows, \*  
As yonder lady o'er her fellows shows.  
The measure done, I 'll watch her place of stand,  
And, touching hers, make blessed my rude hand.

Did my heart love till now? forswear it, sight!  
For I ne'er saw true beauty till this night.

TYBALT.

This, by his voice, should be a Montague.  
Fetch me my rapier, boy. What dares the slave  
Come hither, cover'd with an antic face,  
To fleer and scorn at our solemnity? \*  
Now, by the stock and honour of my kin,  
To strike him dead I hold it not a sin.

CAPULET.

Why, how now, kinsman! wherefore storm you so?

TYBALT.

Uncle, this is a Montague, our foe,  
A villain that is hither come in spite,  
To scorn at our solemnity this night.

CAPULET.

Young Romeo is it?

TYBALT.

'T is he, that villain Romeo.

\*

CAPULET.

Content thee, gentle coz, let him alone; , ,  
He bears him like a portly gentleman;  
And, to say truth, Verona brags of him  
To be a virtuous and well govern'd youth:  
I would not for the wealth of all the town  
Here in my house do him disparagement:  
Therefore be patient, take no note of him:  
It is my will, the which if thou respect,  
Show a fair presence and put off these frowns,  
An ill-beseeming semblance for a feast.











TYBALT.

It fits, when such a villain is a guest :  
I 'll not endure him.

CAPULET.

He shall be endur'd :  
What, goodman boy ! I say, he shall : go to ;  
Am I the master here, or you ? go to.  
You 'll not endure him ! God shall mend my soul !  
You 'll make a mutiny among my guests !  
You will set cock-a-hoop ! you 'll be the man !

TYBALT.

Why, uncle, 't is a shame.

CAPULET.

Go to, go to ,  
You are a saucy boy : is 't so, indeed ?  
This trick may chance to scathe you, I know what :  
You must contrary me ! marry, 't is time.  
Well said, my hearts ! You are a princ Cox ; go :  
Be quiet, or — More light, more light ! — For shame !  
I 'll make you quiet. — What, cheerly, my hearts !

TYBALT.

Patience perforce with wilful choler meeting  
Makes my flesh tremble in their different greeting.  
I will withdraw ; but this intrusion shall  
Now seeming sweet convert to bitter gall.

Exit.

ROMEO, to Juliet.

If I profane with my unworthiest hand  
This holy shrine, the gentle fine is this :

My lips, two blushing pilgrims, ready stand  
To smooth that rough touch with a tender kiss.

JULIET.

Good pilgrim, you do wrong your hand too much,  
Which mannerly devotion shows in this;  
For saints have hands that pilgrims' hands do touch,  
And palm to palm is holy palmers' kiss.

ROMEO.

Have not saints lips, and holy palmers too?

JULIET.

Ay, pilgrim, lips that they must use in prayer.

ROMEO.

O, then, dear saint, let lips do what hands do;  
They pray, grant thou, lest faith turn to despair.

JULIET.

Saints do not move, though grant for prayers' sake.

ROMEO.

Then move not, while my prayer's effect I take.  
Thus from my lips, by yours, my sin is purg'd.

Kissing her

JULIET.

Then have my lips the sin that they have took.

ROMEO.

Sin from my lips? O trespass sweetly urg'd!  
Give me my sin again.

Kissing her again.

JULIET.

You kiss by the book.

NURSE.

Madam, your mother craves a word with you.

ROMEO.

What is her mother?

NURSE.

Marry, bachelor,

Her mother is the lady of the house,  
And a good lady, and a wise and virtuous :  
I nurs'd her daughter, that you talk'd withal ;  
I tell you, he that can lay hold of her  
Shall have the chinks.

ROMEO.

Is she a Capulet?

O dear account ! my life is my foe's debt.

BENVOLIO.

Away, be gone ; the sport is at the best.

ROMEO.

Ay, so I fear ; the more is my unrest.

CAPULET.

Nay, gentlemen, prepare not to be gone ;  
We have a trifling foolish banquet towards.  
Is it e'en so ? why, then, I thank you all ;  
I thank you, honest gentlemen ; good night.  
More torches here ! Come on then, let 's to bed.  
Ah, sirrah, by my fay, it waxes late :  
I 'll to my rest.

*Exeunt all but Juliet and Nurse.*

JULIET.

Come hither, nurse. What is yond gentleman?

NURSE.

The son and heir of old Tiberio.

JULIET.

What 's he that now is going out of door?

NURSE.

Marry, that, I think, be young Petruchio.

JULIET.

What 's he that follows there, that would not dance?

NURSE.

I know not.

JULIET.

Go, ask his name : if he be married,  
My grave is like to be my wedding bed.

NURSE.

His name is Romeo, and a Montague ;  
The only son of your great enemy.

JULIET.

My only love sprung from my only hate !  
Too early seen unknown, and known too late !  
Prodigious birth of love it is to me,  
That I must love a loathed enemy.

NURSE.

What 's this? what 's this?

JULIET.

A rhyme I learn'd even now  
Of one I danc'd withal.

One calls within "Juliet".

NURSE.

Anon, anon !

Come, let 's away ; the strangers all are gone.

Exeunt.





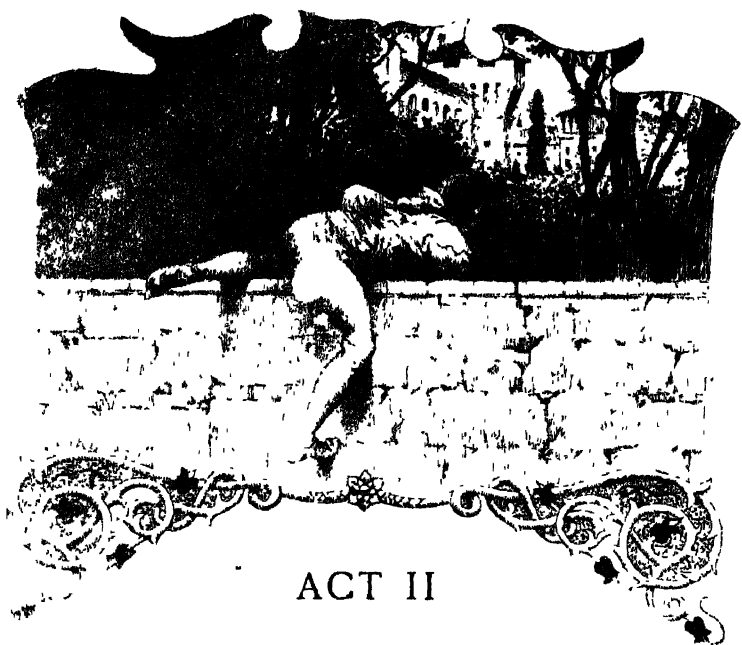












## ACT II

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### PROLOGUE

CHORUS.

Now old desire doth in his death-bed lie,  
And young affection gapes to be his heir ;  
That fair for which love groan'd for and would die,  
With tender Juliet match'd, is now not fair.  
Now Romeo is belov'd and loves again,  
Alike bewitched by the charm of looks,  
But to his foe suppos'd he must complain,  
And she steal love's sweet bait from fearful hooks  
Being held a foe, he may not have access  
To breathe such vows as lovers use to swear ;

And she as much in love, her means much less

To meet her new-beloved any where :

But passion lends them power, time means, to meet,  
Tempering extremities with extreme sweet.

Exit.

## SCENE I

THE STAGE SHOWS ON ONE SIDE A LANE DIVIDED BY A WALL  
FROM CAPULET'S ORCHARD; ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ORCHARD  
CAPULET'S HOUSE.

*Enter ROMEO, in the lane.*

ROMEO.

Can I go forward when my heart is here?

Turn back, dull earth, and find thy centre out.

He climbs the wall, and leaps down within it.

*Enter BENVOLIO and MERCUTIO, in the lane.*

BENVOLIO.

Romeo! my cousin Romeo!

MERCUTIO.

He is wise;

And, on my life, hath stol'n him home to bed.

BENVOLIO.

He ran this way, and leap'd this orchard wall :  
Call, good Mercutio.

MERCUTIO.

Nay, I 'll conjure too.

Romeo ! humours ! madman ! passion ! lover !  
 Appear thou in the likeness of a sigh :  
 Speak but one rhyme, and I am satisfied ;  
 Cry but " Ay me ! " pronounce but " love " and " dove ; "  
 Speak to my gossip Venus one fair word,  
 One nick-name for her purblind son and heir,  
 Young auburn Cupid, he that shot so trim,  
 When King Cophetua lov'd the beggar-maid !  
 He heareth not, he stirreth not, he moveth not ;  
 The ape is dead, and I must conjure him.  
 I conjure thee by Rosaline's bright eyes,  
 By her high forehead and her scarlet lip,  
 By her fine foot, straight leg and quivering thigh  
 And the demesnes that there adjacent lie,  
 That in thy likeness thou appear to us !

BENVOLIO.

An if he hear thee, thou wilt anger him.

MERCUTIO.

This cannot anger him : 't would anger him  
 To raise a spirit in his mistress' circle  
 Of some strange nature, letting it there stand  
 Till she had laid it and conjur'd it down ;  
 That were some spite : my invocation  
 Is fair and honest, and in his mistress' name  
 I conjure only but to raise up him.

BENVOLIO.

Come, he hath hid himself among these trees,  
 To be consorted with the humorous night :  
 Blind is his love and best befits the dark.

MERCUTIO.

If love be blind, love cannot hit the mark.  
 Now will he sit under a medlar tree,  
 And wish his mistress were that kind of fruit  
 As maids call medlars, when they laugh alone.  
 O, Romeo, that she were, O, that she were  
 An open *et cætera*, thou a poperin pear!  
 Romeo, good night : I'll to my truckle-bed;  
 This field-bed is too cold for me to sleep :  
 Come, shall we go?

BENVOLIO.

Go, then; for 't is in vain  
 To seek him here that means not to be found.

Exeunt.

## [SCENE II]

ROMEO.

He jests at scars that never felt a wound.

As he approaches the house, Juliet draws a curtain, and appears above  
 at her window.

But, soft! what light through yonder window breaks?  
 It is the east, and Juliet is the sun.  
 Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious moon,  
 Who is already sick and pale with grief,  
 That thou her maid art far more fair than she :  
 Be not her maid, since she is envious;  
 Her vestal livery is but pale and green,











And none but fools do wear it; cast it off.

Juliet steps out on a balcony.

It is my lady, O, it is my love!

O, that she knew she were!

She speaks, yet she says nothing: what of that?

Her eye discourses; I will answer it.

I am too bold, 't is not to me she speaks:

Two of the fairest stars in all the heaven,

Having some business, do entreat her eyes

To twinkle in their spheres till they return.

What if her eyes were there, they in her head?

The brightness of her cheek would shame those stars,

As daylight doth a lamp; her eyes in heaven

Would through the airy region stream so bright

That birds would sing and think it were not night.

See, how she leans her cheek upon her hand!

O, that I were a glove upon that hand,

That I might touch that cheek!

JULIET.

Ay me!

ROMEO.

She speaks:

O, speak again, bright angel! for thou art

As glorious to this night, being o'er my head,

As is a winged messenger of heaven

Unto the white-upturned wond'ring eyes

Of mortals that fall back to gaze on him

When he bestrides the lazy-pacing clouds

And sails upon the bosom of the air.

JULIET.

O Romeo, Romeo! wherefore art thou Romeo?  
Deny thy father and refuse thy name;  
Or, if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love,  
And I'll no longer be a Capulet.

ROMEO, *aside*

Shall I hear more, or shall I speak at this?

JULIET.

'T is but thy name that is my enemy;  
Thou art thyself, though not a Montague.  
What's Montague? it is not hand, nor foot,  
Nor arm, nor face, nor any other part  
Belonging to a man. O, be some other name!  
What's in a name? that which we call a rose  
By any other name would smell as sweet,  
So Romeo would, were he not Romeo call'd,  
Retain that dear perfection which he owes  
Without that title. Romeo, doff thy name,  
And for that name which is no part of thee  
Take all myself.

ROMEO.

I take thee at thy word:  
Call me but love, and I'll be new baptiz'd;  
Henceforth I never will be Romeo.

JULIET

What man art thou that thus bescreen'd in night  
So stumblest on my counsel?

ROMEO.

By a name  
I know not how to tell thee who I am:

My name, dear saint, is hateful to myself,  
Because it is an enemy to thee ;  
Had I it written, I would tear the word.

JULIET.

My ears have not yet drunk a hundred words  
Of that tongue's utterance, yet I know the sound :  
Art thou not Romeo and a Montague ?

ROMEO.

Neither, fair saint, if either thee dislike.

JULIET.

How cam'st thou hither, tell me, and wherefore ?  
The orchard walls are high and hard to climb,  
And the place death, considering who thou art,  
If any of my kinsmen find thee here.

ROMEO.

With love's light wings did I o'er-perch these walls ;  
For stony limits cannot hold love out,  
And what love can do that dares love attempt,  
Therefore thy kinsmen are no let to me.

JULIET.

If they do see thee, they will murder thee.

ROMEO.

Alack, there lies more peril in thine eye  
Than twenty of their swords : look thou but sweet,  
And I am proof against their enmity.

JULIET.

I would not for the world they saw thee here.

ROMEO.

I have night's cloak to hide me from their sight ;  
And but thou love me, let them find me here :

*Romeo and Juliet*

My life were better ended by their hate,  
Than death prorogued, wanting of thy love.\*

JULIET.

By whose direction found'st thou out this place?

ROMEO.

By love, who first did prompt me to inquire;  
He lent me counsel and I lent him eyes.  
I am no pilot; yet, wert thou as far  
As that vast shore wash'd with the farthest sea,  
I would adventure for such merchandise.

JULIET.

Thou know'st the mask of night is on my face,  
Else would a maiden blush bepaint my cheek  
For that which thou hast heard me speak to-night  
Fain would I dwell on form, fain, fain deny  
What I have spoke, but farewell compliment!  
Dost thou love me? I know thou wilt say "Ay,  
And I will take thy word" yet, if thou swear'st,  
Thou mayst prove false; at lovers' perjuries,  
They say, Jove laughs. O gentle Romeo,  
If thou dost love, pronounce it faithfully:  
Or if thou think'st I am too quickly won,  
I'll frown and be perverse and say thee nay, —  
So thou wilt woo; but else, not for the world.  
In truth, fair Montague, I am too fond,  
And therefore thou mayst think my 'haviour light  
But trust me, gentleman, I'll prove more true  
Than those that have more cunning to be strange.  
I should have been more strange, I must confess,  
But that thou overheard'st, ere I was ware,

*ACT II, SCENE II*

My true love's passion : therefore pardon me,  
And not impute this yielding to light love,  
Which the dark night hath so discovered.

ROMEO.

Lady, by yonder blessed moon I swear  
That tips with silver all these fruit-tree tops --

JULIET.

O, swear not by the moon, th' inconstant moon,  
That monthly changes in her circled orb,  
Lest that thy love prove likewise variable.

ROMEO.

What shall I swear by?

JULIET.

Do not swear at all;  
Or, if thou wilt, swear by thy gracious self,  
Which is the god of my idolatry,  
And I'll believe thee.

ROMEO.

If my heart's dear love --

JULIET.

Well, do not swear : although I joy in thee,  
I have no joy of this contract to-night  
It is too rash, too unadvis'd, too sudden ;  
Too like the lightning, which doth cease to be  
Ere one can say it lightens. Sweet, good night !  
This bud of love, by summer's ripening breath,  
May prove a beauteous flower when next we meet.  
Good night, good night ! as sweet repose and rest  
Come to thy heart as that within my breast !



ROMEO.

O, wilt thou leave me so unsatisfied?

JULIET.

What satisfaction canst thou have to-night?

ROMEO.

The exchange of thy love's faithful vow for mine.

JULIET.

I gave thee mine before thou didst request it:

And yet I would it were to give again.

ROMEO.

Wouldst thou withdraw it? for what purpose, love?

JULIET.

But to be frank, and give it thee again.

And yet I wish but for the thing I have

My bounty is as boundless as the sea,

My love as deep; the more I give to thee,

The more I have, for both are infinite.

Nurse calls within.

I hear some noise within; dear love, adieu!

Anon, good nurse! Sweet Montague, be true.

Stay but a little, I will come again.

Exit, above.

ROMEO.

O blessed, blessed night! I am afeard,

Being in night, all this is but a dream,

Too flattering-sweet to be substantial.

*Re-enter JULIET, above*

JULIET.

Three words, dear Romeo, and good night\*indeed.

If that thy bent of love be honourable,  
Thy purpose marriage, send me word to-morrow,  
By one that I'll procure to come to thee,  
Where and what time thou wilt perform the rite ;  
And all my fortunes at thy foot I'll lay  
And follow thee my lord throughout the world.

NURSE, within

Madam !

JULIET.

I come, anon. — But if thou mean'st not well,  
I do beseech thee —

NURSE, within

Madam !

JULIET.

By and by, I come . —  
To cease thy suit, and leave me to my grief :  
To-morrow will I send.

ROMEO.

So thrive my soul —

JULIET.

A thousand times good night !

Exit, above

ROMEO.

A thousand times the worse, to want thy light.  
Love goes toward love, as schoolboys from their books,  
But love from love, toward school with heavy looks.

Returning

*Re-enter JULIET, above.*

JULIET.

Hist! Romeo, hist! O, for a falc'ner's voice,  
To lure this tassel-gentle back again!  
Bondage is hoarse, and may not speak aloud;  
Else would I tear the cave where Echo lies,  
And make her airy tongue more hoarse than mine,  
With repetition of my Romeo's name.

ROMEO.

It is my soul that calls upon my name:  
How silver-sweet sound lovers' tongues by night,  
Like softest music to attending ears!

JULIET.

Romeo!

ROMEO.

My dear?

JULIET.

At what o'clock to-morrow  
Shall I send to thee?

ROMEO.

At the hour of nine.

JULIET.

I will not fail: 't is twenty years till then.  
I have forgot why I did call thee back.

ROMEO.

Let me stand here till thou remember it.

JULIET.

I shall forget, to have thee still stand there,  
Rememb'ring how I love thy company.

ROMEO.

And I 'll still stay, to have thee still forget,  
Forgetting any other home but this.

JULIET.

'Tis almost morning; I would have thee gone :  
And yet no further than a wanton's bird ;  
Who lets it hop a little from her hand,  
Like a poor prisoner in his twisted gyves,  
And with a silk thread plucks it back again,  
So loving-jealous of his liberty.

ROMEO.

I would I were thy bird.

JULIET.

Sweet, so would I :  
Yet I should kill thee with much cherishing.  
Good night, good night ! parting is such sweet sorrow,  
That I shall say good night till it be morrow.

Exit, above.

ROMEO.

Sleep dwell upon thine eyes, peace in thy breast !  
Would I were sleep and peace, so sweet to rest !  
Hence will I to my ghostly father's cell,  
His help to crave, and my dear hap to tell.

Exit

## SCENE III

FRIAR LAURENCE'S CELI

*Enter FRIAR LAURENCE, with a basket.*

FRIAR LAURENCE.

The grey-ey'd morn smiles on the frowning night,  
Chequ'ring the eastern clouds with streaks of light,  
And flecked darkness like a drunkard reels  
From forth day's path and Titan's fiery wheels :  
Now, ere the sun advance his burning eye,  
The day to cheer and night's dank dew to dry,  
I must up-fill this osier cage of ours  
With baleful weeds and precious-juiced flowers.  
The earth that 's nature's mother is her tomb;  
What is her burying grave that is her womb,  
And from her womb children of divers kind  
We sucking on her natural bosom find,  
Many for many virtues excellent,  
None but for some, and yet all different.  
O, mickle is the powerful grace that lies  
In herbs, plants, stones, and their true qualities :  
For nought so vile that on the earth doth live  
But to the earth some special good doth give,  
Nor aught so good but strain'd from that fair use  
Revolts from true birth, stumbling on abuse :  
Virtue itself turns vice, being misapplied;  
And vice sometimes by action dignified.

Within the infant rind of this small flower  
Poison hath residence and medicine power :  
For this, being smelt, with that part cheers each part ;  
Being tasted, slays all senses with the heart.  
Two such opposed kings encamp them still  
In man as well as herbs, grace and rude will ;  
And where the worser is predominant,  
Full soon the canker death eats up that plant.

*Enter ROMEO.*

ROMEO.

Good morrow, father.

FRIAR LAURENCE.

*Benedicite !*

What early tongue so sweet saluteth me ?  
Young son, it argues a distemper'd head  
So soon to bid good morrow to thy bed  
Care keeps his watch in every old man's eye,  
And where care lodges, sleep will never lie ;  
But where unbruised youth with unstuff'd brain  
Doth couch his limbs, there golden sleep doth reign :  
Therefore thy earliness doth me assure  
Thou art up-rous'd by some distemperature ;  
Or if not so, then here I hit it right,  
Our Romeo hath not been in bed to-night

ROMEO.

That last is true ; the sweeter rest was mine

FRIAR LAURENCE.

God pardon sin ! wast thou with Rosaline ?

ROMEO.

With Rosaline, my ghostly father? no;  
I have forgot that name, and that name's woe.

FRIAR LAURENCE.

That's my good son; but where hast thou been, then?

ROMEO.

I'll tell thee, ere thou ask it me again.  
I have been feasting with mine enemy,  
Where on a sudden one hath wounded me,  
That's by me wounded: both our remedies  
Within thy help and holy physic lies:  
I bear no hatred, blessed man, for, lo,  
My intercession likewise steads my foe.

FRIAR LAURENCE.

Be plain, good son, and homely in thy drift;  
Riddling confession finds but riddling shrift.

ROMEO.

Then plainly know my heart's dear love is set  
On the fair daughter of rich Capulet:  
As mine on hers, so hers is set on mine;  
And all combin'd, save what thou must combine  
By holy marriage: when and where and how  
We met, we woo'd and made exchange of vow,  
I'll tell thee as we pass; but this I pray,  
That thou consent to marry us to-day.

FRIAR LAURENCE.

Holy Saint Francis, what a change is here!  
Is Rosaline, whom thou didst love so dear,  
So soon forsaken? young men's love then lies  
Not truly in their hearts, but in their eyes.

Jesu Maria, what a deal of brine  
Hath wash'd thy sallow cheeks for Rosaline !  
How much salt water thrown away in waste,  
To season love, that of it doth not taste !  
The sun not yet thy sighs from heaven clears,  
Thy old groans ring yet in my ancient ears ;  
Lo, here upon thy cheek the stain doth sit  
Of an old tear that is not wash'd off yet -  
If e'er thou wast thyself and these woes thine,  
Thou and these woes were all for Rosaline :  
And art thou chang'd ? pronounce this sentence then,  
Women may fall, when there 's no strength in men.

ROMEO.

Thou chid'st me oft for loving Rosaline.

FRIAR LAURENCE.

For doting, not for loving, pupil mine.

ROMEO.

And bad'st me bury love.

FRIAR LAURENCE

Not in a grave,

To lay one in, another out to have.

ROMEO

I pray thee, chide not : she whom I love now  
Doth grace for grace and love for love allow ;  
The other did not so

FRIAR LAURENCE.

O, she knew well

Thy love did read by rote and could not spell.  
But come, young waverer, come, go with me,  
In one respect I 'll thy assistant be ;



For this alliance may so happy prove,  
To turn your households' rancour to pure love,

ROMEO.

O, let us hence; I stand on sudden haste.

FRIAR LAURENCE.

Wisely and slow; they stumble that run fast.

*Exeunt*

## SCENE IV

A STREET.

*Enter* BENVOLIO *and* MERCUTIO

MERCUTIO.

Where the devil should this Romeo be?  
Came he not home to-night?

BENVOLIO.

Not to his father's; I spoke with his man.

MERCUTIO.

Ah, that same pale hard-hearted wretch, that Rosaline,  
Torments him so that he will soon run mad.

BENVOLIO.

Tybalt, the kinsman of our Capulet,  
Hath sent a letter to his uncle's house.

MERCUTIO.

A challenge, on my life.

BENVOLIO.

Romeo will answer it.

MERCUTIO.

Any man that can write may answer a letter.

BENVOLIO.

Nay, he will answer the letter's master, how he dares, being dared.

MERCUTIO.

Alas, poor Romeo! he is already dead; stabb'd with a white wench's black eye, shot thorough the ear with a lovesong, the very pin of his heart cleft with the blind bow-boy's buttshaft: and is he a man to encounter Tybalt?

BENVOLIO.

Why, what is Tybalt?

MERCUTIO.

More than prince of cats, I can tell you. O, he is the courageous captain of compliments. He fights as you sing prick-song, keeps time, distance, and proportion; rests one his mind rest, one, two, and the third in your bosom: the very butcher of a silk button; a duellist, a duellist; a gentleman of the very first house, of the first and second cause: ah, the immortal pastime of the pair!

BENVOLIO.

He what?

MERCUTIO.

The pox of such a lisp! affecting fantasticoes, these new tuners of accents! By Jesu, a very good blade! a very tall man! a very good whore! Why, is not this a lamentable thing, grandsire, that we should be thus afflicted with these strange flies, these

fashion-mongers, these *perdona-mi's*, who stand so much on the new form, that they cannot sit at ease on the old bench? O, their bones, their bones!

*Enter ROMEO.*

BENVOLIO.

Here comes Romeo, here comes Romeo.

MERCUTIO.

Without his roe, like a dried herring: O flesh, flesh, how art thou fishified! Now is he for the numbers that Petrarch flowed in: Laura to his lady was but a kitchen-wench; marry, she had a better love to be-rhyme her; Dido a dowdy; Cleopatra a gipsy; Helen and Hero hildings and harlots; Thisbe, a grey eye or so, but not to the purpose. Signior Romeo, *bon jour*! there 's-a French salutation to your French slop. You gave us the counterfeit fairly last night.

ROMEO.

Good morrow to you both. What counterfeit did I give you?

MERCUTIO.

The slip, sir, the slip; can you not conceive?

ROMEO.

Pardon, good Mercutio, my business was great; and in such a case as mine a man may strain courtesy.

MERCUTIO.

That 's as much as to say, such a case as yours constrains a man to bow in the hams.

ROMEO.

Meaning, to court'sy.

MERCUTIO.

Thou hast most kindly hit it.

ROMEO.

A most courteous exposition.

MERCUTIO.

Nay, I am the very pink of courtesy.

ROMEO.

Pink for flower.

MERCUTIO.

Right.

ROMEO.

Why, then is my pump well flower'd.

MERCUTIO.

Well said : follow me this jest now till thou hast worn out thy pump, that when the single sole of it is worn, the jest may remain after the wearing sole singular.

ROMEO.

O single-sol'd jest, solely singular for the singleness !

MERCUTIO.

Come between us, good Benvolio ; my wits faint.

ROMEO.

Switch and spurs, switch and spurs ; or I 'll cry a match.

MERCUTIO.

Nay, if thy wits run the wild-goose chase, I have done, for thou hast more of the wild-goose in one of

thy wits than, I am sure, I have in my whole five : was I with you there for the goose?

ROMEO.

Thou wast never with me for any thing when thou was not there for the goose.

MERCUTIO.

I will bite thee by the ear for that jest.

ROMEO.

Nay, good goose, bite not.

MERCUTIO.

Thy wit is a very bitter sweeting; it is a most sharp sauce.

ROMEO.

And is it not well serv'd in to a sweet goose?

MERCUTIO.

O, here 's a wit of cheveril, that stretches from an inch narrow to an ell broad!

ROMEO.

I stretch it out for that word "broad"; which added to the goose, proves thee far and wide a broad goose.

MERCUTIO.

Why, is not this better now than groaning for love? now art thou sociable, now art thou Romeo; now art thou what thou art, by art as well as by nature : for this drivelling love is like a great natural, that runs loling up and down to hide his bauble in a hole.

BENVOLIO.

Stop there, stop there.

MERCUTIO.

Thou desir'st me to stop in my tale against the hair.

BENVOLIO.

Thou wouldst else have made thy tale large.

MERCUTIO.

O, thou art deceiv'd; I would have made it short :  
for I was come to the whole depth of my tale; and  
meant, indeed, to occupy the argument no longer.

ROMEO.

Here 's goodly gear!

*Enter NURSE and PETER.*

A sail, a sail!

MERCUTIO.

Two, two; a shirt and a smock.

NURSE.

Peter!

PETER.

Anon!

NURSE.

My fan, Peter.

MERCUTIO.

Good Peter, to hide her face; for her fan 's the fairer  
face.

NURSE.

God ye good morrow, gentlemen.

MERCUTIO.

God ye good den, fair gentlewoman.

NURSE.

Is it good den?

MERCUTIO.

'T is no less, I tell you, for the bawdy hand of the dial is now upon the prick of noon.

NURSE.

Out upon you ! what a man are you !

ROMEO.

One, gentlewoman, that God hath made for himself to mar.

NURSE.

By my troth, it's well said ; " for himself to mar," quoth a' ? Gentlemen, can any of you tell me where I may find the young Romeo ?

ROMEO.

I can tell you ; but young Romeo will be older when you have found him than he was when you sought him : I am the youngest of that name, for fault of a worse.

NURSE.

You say well.

MERCUTIO.

Yea, is the worst well ? very well took, i' faith ; wisely, wisely.

NURSE.

If you be he, sir, I desire some confidence with you.

BENVOLIO.

She will indite him to some supper.

MERCUTIO.

A bawd, a bawd, a bawd ! So ho !

ROMEO.

What hast thou found ?

MERCUTIO.

No hare, sir; unless a hare, sir, in a lenten pie, that is something stale and hoar ere it be spent.

Walks by them singing.

An old hare hoar,  
And an old hare hoar,  
Is very good meat in lent:  
But a hare that is hoar  
Is too much for a score,  
When it hoars ere it be spent.

Romeo, will you come to your father's? we 'll to dinner, thither.

ROMEO.

I will follow you.

MERCUTIO.

Farewell, ancient lady; farewell (singing) " lady, lady, lady."

Exeunt Mercutio and Benvolio.

NURSE.

Marry, farewell! I pray you, sir, what saucy merchant was this, that was so full of his ropery?

ROMEO.

A gentleman, nurse, that loves to hear himself talk, and will speak more in a minute than he will stand to in a month.

NURSE.

An a' speak any thing against me, I 'll take him down, an a' were lustier than he is, and twenty such Jacks; and if I cannot, I 'll find those that shall. Scuffy knave! I am none of his flirt-gills; I am none of his



skains-mates. And thou must stand by too, and suffer every knave to use me at his pleasure?

PETER.

I saw no man use you at his pleasure; if I had, my weapon should quickly have been out, I warrant you: I dare draw as soon as another man, if I see occasion in a good quarrel, and the law on my side.

NURSE.

Now, afore God, I am so vex'd, that every part about me quivers. Scurvy knave! Pray you, sir, a word: and as I told you, my young lady bade me inquire you out; what she bade me say, I will keep to myself; but first let me tell ye, if ye should lead her into a fool's paradise, as they say, it were a very gross kind of behaviour, as they say: for the gentlewoman is young; and, therefore, if you should deal double with her, truly it were an ill thing to be offered to any gentlewoman, and very weak dealing.

ROMEO.

Nurse, commend me to thy lady and mistress. I protest unto thee —

NURSE.

Good heart, and, i' faith, I will tell her as much: Lord, Lord, she will be a joyful woman.

ROMEO.

What wilt thou tell her, nurse? thou dost not mark me.

NURSE.

I will tell her, sir, that you do protest; which, as I take it, is a gentlemanlike offer.

ROMEO.

Bid her devise  
Some means to come to shrift this afternoon;  
And there she shall at Friar Laurence' cell  
Be shriv'd and married. Here is for thy pains.

NURSE.

No, truly, sir; not a penny.

ROMEO.

Go to; I say you shall.

NURSE.

This afternoon, sir? well, she shall be there.

ROMEO.

And stay, good nurse; — behind the abbey wall  
Within this hour my man shall be with thee,  
And bring thee cords made like a tackled stair;  
Which to the high top-gallant of my joy  
Must be my convoy in the secret night.  
Farewell; be trusty, and I'll quit thy pains:  
Farewell; commend me to thy mistress.

NURSE.

Now God in heaven bless thee! Hark you, sir.

ROMEO.

What say'st thou, my dear nurse?

NURSE.

Is your man secret? Did you ne'er hear say,  
Two may keep counsel, putting one away?

ROMEO.

I warrant thee, my man's as true as steel.

NURSE.

Well, sir; my mistress is the sweetest lady — Lord,

Lord! when 't was a little prating thing : — O, there is a nobleman in town, one Paris, that would fain lay knife aboard; but she, good soul, had as lief see a toad, a very toad, as see him. I anger her sometimes and tell her that Paris is the properer man; but, I'll warrant you, when I say so, she looks as pale as any clout in the versal world. Doth not rosemary and Romeo begin both with a letter?

ROMEO.

Ay, nurse; what of that? both with an R.

NURSE.

Ah, mocker! that 's the dog's name; R is for thee? — No; I know it begins with some other letter : — and she hath the prettiest sententious of it, of you and rosemary, that it would do you good to hear it.

ROMEO.

Commend me to thy lady.

NURSE.

Ay, a thousand times. (Exit Romeo.) Peter!

PETER.

Anon!

NURSE.

Peter, take my fan, and go before, and apace.

Exeunt.

## SCENE V

*CAPULET'S ORCHARD.**Enter JULIET.*

JULIET.

The clock struck nine when I did send the nurse ;  
In half an hour she promis'd to return.  
Perchance she cannot meet him : that 's not so.  
O, she is lame ! love's heralds should be thoughts,  
Which ten times faster glide than the sun's beams,  
Driving back shadows over louring hills :  
Therefore do nimble-pinion'd doves draw love,  
And therefore hath the wind-swift Cupid wings.  
Now is the sun upon the highmost hill  
Of this day's journey, and from nine till twelve  
Is three long hours, yet she is not come.  
Had she affections and warm youthful blood,  
She would be as swift in motion as a ball ;  
My words would bandy her to my sweet love,  
And his to me :  
But old folks, marry, fare as they were dead ,  
Unwieldy, slow, heavy and pale as lead.  
O God, she comes !

*Enter NURSE and PETER.*

O honey nurse, what news ?  
Hast thou met with him ? Send thy man away.

NURSE.

Peter, stay at the gate.

Exit Peter.

JULIET.

Now, good sweet nurse, — O Lord, why look'st thou sad?  
Though news be sad, yet tell them merrily;  
If good, thou sham'st the music of sweet news  
By playing it to me with so sour a face.

NURSE.

I am a-weary, give me leave awhile:  
Fie, how my bones ache! what a jaunt have I had!

JULIET.

I would thou hadst my bones, and I thy news.  
Nay, come, I pray thee, speak; good, good nurse, speak.

NURSE.

Jesu, what haste! can you not stay awhile?  
Do you not see that I am out of breath?

JULIET.

How art thou out of breath, when thou hast breath  
To say to me that thou art out of breath?  
The excuse that thou dost make in this delay  
Is longer than the tale thou dost excuse.  
Is thy news good, or bad? answer to that;  
Say either, and I'll stay the circumstance:  
Let me be satisfied, is 't good or bad?

NURSE.

Well, you have made a simple choice; you know not  
how to choose a man: Romeo! no, not he; though  
his face be better than any man's, yet his leg excels all  
men's; and for a hand, and a foot, and a body, though

they be not to be talk'd on, yet they are past compare :  
he is not the flower of courtesy, but, I'll warrant him,  
as gentle as a lamb. Go thy ways, wench ; serve God.  
What, have you din'd at home ?

JULIET.

No, no ; but all this did I know before.  
What says he of our marriage ? what of that ?

NURSE.

Lord, how my head aches ! what a head have I !  
It beats as it would fall in twenty pieces.  
My back o' t' other side, — O, my back, my back !  
Beshrew your heart for sending me about,  
To catch my death with jaunting up and down !

JULIET.

I' faith, I am sorry that thou art not well.  
Sweet, sweet, sweet nurse, tell me, what says my love ?

NURSE.

Your love says, like an honest gentleman, and a courteous,  
and a kind, and a handsome, and, I warrant, a  
virtuous, — Where is your mother ?

JULIET.

Where is my mother ! why, she is within ;  
Where should she be ? How oddly thou repliest !  
“ Your love says, like an honest gentleman,  
Where is your mother ? ”

NURSE.

O God's lady dear !

Are you so hot ? marry, come up, I trow ;  
Is this the poultice for my aching bones ?  
Henceforward do your messages yourself.

JULIET.

Here 's such a coil ! — Come, what says Romeo ?

NURSE.

Have you got leave to go to shrift to-day ?

JULIET.

I have.

NURSE.

Then hie you hence to Friar Laurence' cell ;  
There stays a husband to make you a wife :  
Now comes the wanton blood up in your cheeks,  
They 'll be in scarlet straight at any news.  
Hie you to church ; I must another way,  
To fetch a ladder, by the which your love  
Must climb a bird's nest soon when it is dark :  
I am the drudge and toil in your delight,  
But you shall bear the burthen soon at night.  
Go ; I 'll to dinner ; hie you to the cell.

JULIET.

Hie to high fortune ! Honest nurse, farewell.

Exeunt.

## SCENE VI

FRIAR LAURENCE'S CELL.

*Enter* FRIAR LAURENCE *and* ROMEO

FRIAR LAURENCE.

So smile the heavens upon this holy act,  
That after hours with sorrow chide us not !

ROMEO.

Amen, amen ! but come what sorrow can  
It cannot countervail the exchange of joy  
That one short minute gives me in her sight :  
Do thou but close our hands with holy words,  
Then love-devouring death do what he dare ;  
It is enough I may but call her mine.

FRIAR LAURENCE.

These violent delights have violent ends  
And in their triumph die, like fire and powder,  
Which as they kiss consume : the sweetest honey  
Is loathsome in his own deliciousness  
And in the taste confounds the appetite :  
Therefore love moderately ; long love doth so ;  
Too swift arrives as tardy as too slow.

*Enter JULIET.*

Here comes the lady : O, so light a foot  
Will ne'er wear out the everlasting flint :  
A lover may bestride the gossamer  
That idles in the wanton summer air,  
And yet not fall ; so light is vanity.

JULIET.

Good even to my ghostly confessor.

FRIAR LAURENCE.

Romeo shall thank thee, daughter, for us both.

JULIET.

As much to him, else is his thanks too much.



ROMEO.

Ah, Juliet, if the measure of thy joy  
Be heap'd like mine and that thy skill be more  
To blazon it, then sweeten with thy breath  
This neighbour air, and let rich music's tongue  
Unfold the imagin'd happiness that both  
Receive in either by this dear encounter.

JULIET.

Conceit, more rich in matter than in words,  
Brag of his substance, not of ornament :  
They are but beggars that can count their worth ;  
But my true love is grown to such excess  
I cannot sum up half my sum of wealth.

FRIAR LAURENCE.

Come, come with me, and we will make short work ;  
For, by your leaves, you shall not stay alone  
Till holy church incorporate two in one.

Exeunt





















## ACT III

### SCENE I

A PUBLIC PLACE.

*Enter MERCUTIO, BENVOLIO, PAGE, and SERVANTS.*

BENVOLIO.

I pray thee, good Mercutio, let's retire :  
The day is hot, the Capulets abroad,  
And, if we meet, we shall not scape a brawl ;  
For now, these hot days, is the mad blood stirring.

MERCUTIO.

Thou art like one of those fellows that when he enters  
the confines of a tavern claps me his sword upon the

table and says " God send me no need of thee! " and by the operation of the second cup draws it on the drawer, when indeed there is no need.

BENVOLIO.

Am I like such a fellow ?

MERCUTIO.

Come, come, thou art as hot a Jack in thy mood as any in Italy, and as soon mov'd to be moody, and as soon moody to be mov'd.

BENVOLIO.

And what to ?

MERCUTIO.

Nay, ah there were two such, we should have none shortly, for one would kill the other. Thou ! why, thou wilt quarrel with a man that hath a hair more, or a hair less, in his beard, than thou hast : thou wilt quarrel with a man for cracking nuts, having no other reason but because thou hast hazel eyes : what eye but such an eye would spy out such a quarrel ? Thy head is as full of quarrels as an egg is full of meat, and yet thy head hath been beaten as addle as an egg for quarrelling : thou hast quarrell'd with a man for coughing in the street, because he hath wakened thy dog that hath lain asleep in the sun : didst thou not fall out with a tailor for wearing his new doublet before Easter ? with another, for tying his new shoes with old riband ? and yet thou wilt tutor me for quarrelling !

BENVOLIO.

An I were so apt to quarrel as thou art, any man

should buy the fee-simple of my life for an hour and a quarter.

MERCUTIO.

The fee-simple ! O simple !

BENVOLIO.

By my head, here come the Capulets.

MERCUTIO.

By my heel, I care not.

*Enter TYBALT and others.*

TYBALT.

Follow me close, for I will speak to them. Gentlemen, good den : a word with one of you.

MERCUTIO.

And but one word with one of us ? couple it with something ; make it a word and a blow.

TYBALT.

You shall find me apt enough to that, sir, an you will give occasion.

MERCUTIO.

Could you not take some occasion without giving ?

TYBALT.

Mercutio, thou consort'st with Romeo, —

MERCUTIO.

Consort ! what, dost thou make us minstrels ? an thou make minstrels of us, look to hear nothing but discords : here's my fiddlestick ; here's that shall make you dance. 'Zounds, consort !

BENVOLIO.

We talk here in the public haunt of men :

Either withdraw unto some private place,  
Or reason coldly of your grievances,  
Or else depart; here all eyes gaze on us.

MERCUTIO.

Men's eyes were made to look, and let them gaze;  
I will not budge for no man's pleasure, I.

*Enter ROMEO.*

TYBALT.

Well, peace be with you, sir : here comes my man.

MERCUTIO.

But I'll be hang'd, sir, if he wear your livery :  
Marry, go before to field, he'll be your follower;  
Your worship in that sense may call him "man."

TYBALT.

Romeo, the hate I bear thee can afford  
No better term than this, — thou art a villain.

ROMEO.

Tybalt, the reason that I have to love thee  
Doth much excuse the appertaining rage  
To such a greeting : villain am I none;  
Therefore farewell; I see thou know'st me not.

TYBALT.

Boy, this shall not excuse the injuries  
That thou hast done me; therefore turn and draw.

ROMEO.

I do protest, I never injur'd thee,  
But love thee better than thou canst devise,  
Till thou shalt know the reason of my love :

And so, good Capulet, — which name I tender  
As dearly as my own, — be satisfied.

MERCUTIO.

O calm, dishonourable, vile submission!  
*Alla stoccata* carries it away.

Draws.

Tybalt, you rat-catcher, will you walk?

TYBALT.

What wouldst thou have with me?

MERCUTIO.

Good king of cats, nothing but one of your nine  
lives; that I mean to make bold withal, and, as you  
shall use me hereafter, dry-beat the rest of the eight.  
Will you pluck your sword out of his pilcher by  
the ears? make haste, lest mine be about your ears ere  
it be out.

TYBALT, drawing.

I am for you.

ROMEO. \*

Gentle Mercutio, put thy rapier up.

MERCUTIO.

Come, sir, your *passado*.

They fight.

ROMEO.

Draw, Benvolio; beat down their weapons.  
Gentlemen, for shame, forbear this outrage!  
Tybalt, Mercutio, the Prince expressly hath  
Forbidden bandying in Verona streets:  
Hold, Tybalt! good Mercutio!

Tybalt thrusts under Romeo's arm at Mercutio, and flies with  
his followers.

*Romeo and Juliet.*

\*

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MERCUTIO.

I am hurt.

A plague o' both your houses! I am sped.

Is he gone, and hath nothing?

BENVOLIO.

What, art thou hurt?

MERCUTIO.

Ay, ay, a scratch, a scratch; marry, 't is enough.

Where is my page? Go, villain, fetch a surgeon.

Exit Page.

ROMEO.

Courage, man; the hurt cannot be much.

MERCUTIO.

No, 't is not so deep as a well, nor so wide as a church-door; but 't is enough, 't will serve: ask for me to-morrow, and you shall find me a grave man. I am pepper'd, I warrant, for this world. A plague o' both your houses! 'Zounds, a dog, a rat, a mouse, a cat, to scratch a man to death! a braggart, a rogue, a villain, that fights by the book of arithmetic! Why the devil came you between us? I was hurt under your arm.

ROMEO.

I thought all for the best.

MERCUTIO.

Help me into some house, Benvolio,  
Or I shall faint. A plague o' both your houses!  
They have made worms' meat of me: I have it,  
And soundly too: — your houses!

Exeunt Mercutio and Benvolio

ROMEO.

This gentleman, the Prince's near ally,  
My very friend, hath got his mortal hurt  
In my behalf; my reputation stain'd  
With Tybalt's slander, — Tybalt, that an hour  
Hath been my cousin! O sweet Juliet,  
Thy beauty hath made me effeminate  
And in my temper soften'd valour's steel!

*Re-enter* BENVOLIO.

BENVOLIO.

O Romeo, Romeo, brave Mercutio's dead!  
That gallant spirit hath aspir'd the clouds,  
Which too untimely here did scorn the earth.

ROMEO.

This day's black fate on more days doth depend;  
This but begins the woe others must end.

BENVOLIO.

Here come the furious Tybalt back again.

ROMEO.

Alive, in triumph! and Mercutio slain!  
Away to heaven, respective lenity,  
And fire-eyed fury be my conduct now!

*Re-enter* TYBALT.

Now, Tybalt, take the villain back again,  
That late thou gav'st me; for Mercutio's soul  
Is but a little way above our heads,



Staying for thine to keep him company :  
Either thou, or I, or both, must go with him.

TYBALT.

Thou, wretched boy, that didst consort him here,  
Shalt with him hence.'

ROMEO.

This shall determine that.

*They fight; Tybalt falls.*

BENVOLIO.

Romeo, away, be gone!  
The citizens are up, and Tybalt slain.  
Stand not amaz'd : the Prince will doom thee death,  
If thou art taken : hence! — be gone! — away!

ROMEO.

O, I am fortune's fool!

BENVOLIO.

Why dost thou stay?

*Exit Romeo.*

*Enter CITIZENS, etc.*

FIRST CITIZEN.

Which way ran he that kill'd Mercutio?  
Tybalt, that murtherer, which way ran he?

BENVOLIO.

There lies that Tybalt.

FIRST CITIZEN.

Up, sir, go with me;  
I charge thee in the Prince's name, obey.

*Enter PRINCE, attended; MONTAGUE, CAPULET,  
their WIVES, and others.*

PRINCE.

Where are the vile beginners of this fray?

BENVOLIO.

O noble Prince, I can discover all  
The unlucky manage of this fatal brawl :  
There lies the man, slain by young Romeo,  
That slew thy kinsman, brave Mercutio.

LADY CAPULET.

Tybalt, my cousin! O my brother's child!  
O Prince! O cousin! husband! O, the blood is spilt  
Of my dear kinsman! Prince, as thou art true,  
For blood of ours, shed blood of Montague.  
O cousin, cousin!

PRINCE.

Benvolio, who began this bloody fray?

BENVOLIO.

Tybalt, here slain, whom Romeo's hand did slay!  
Romeo that spoke him fair, bade him bethink  
How nice the quarrel was, and urg'd withal  
Your high displeasure : all this uttered  
With gentle breath, calm look, knees humbly bow'd,  
Could not take trace with the unruly spleen  
Of Tybalt deaf to peace, but that he tilts  
With piercing steel at bold Mercutio's breast,  
Who, all as hot, turns deadly point to point,  
And, with a martial scorn, with one hand beats  
Cold death aside, and with the other sends

It back to Tybalt, whose dexterity  
Retorts it : Romeo he cries aloud,  
" Hold, friends! friends, part! " and, swifter than his tongue,  
His agile arm beats down their fatal points,  
And 'twixt them rushes ; underneath whose arm  
An envious thrust from Tybalt hit the life  
Of stout Mercutio, and then Tybalt fled ;  
But by and by comes back to Romeo,  
Who had but newly entertain'd revenge,  
And to't they go like lightning, for ere I  
Could draw to part them, was stout Tybalt slain,  
And, as he fell, did Romeo turn and fly.  
This is the truth, or let Benvolio die.

LADY CAPULET.

He is a kinsman to the Montague ;  
Affection makes him false ; he speaks not true :  
Some twenty of them fought in this black strife,  
And all those twenty could but kill one life.  
I beg for justice, which thou, Prince, must give ;  
Romeo slew Tybalt, Romeo must not live.

PRINCE.

Romeo slew him, he slew Mercutio ;  
Who now the price of his dear blood doth owe?

MONTAGUE.

Not Romeo, Prince, he was Mercutio's friend ;  
His fault concludes but what the law should end,  
The life of Tybalt.

PRINCE.

And for that offence  
Immediately we do exile him hence :

I have an interest in your hate's proceeding,  
 My blood for your rude brawls doth lie a-bleeding ;  
 But I 'll amerce you with so strong a fine  
 That you shall all repent the loss of mine :  
 I will be deaf to pleading and excuses ;  
 Nor tears nor prayers shall purchase out abuses :  
 Therefore use none : let Romeo hence in haste,  
 Else, when he's found, that hour is his last.  
 Bear hence this body and attend our will :  
 Mercy but murders, pardoning those that kill.

Exeunt

## SCENE II

LOGGIA OF CAPULET'S HOUSE NEAR JULIET'S CHAMBER.

Enter JULIET.

JULIET.

Gallop apace, you fiery-footed steeds,  
 Towards Phœbus' lodging : such a waggoner  
 As Phaethon would whip you to the west,  
 And bring in cloudy night immediately !  
 Spread thy close curtain, love-performing night,  
 That runaway's eyes may wink, and Romeo  
 Leap to these arms, untalk'd of and unseen.  
 Lovers can see to do, their amorous rites  
 By their own beauties ; or, if love be blind,  
 It best agrees with night. Come, civil night,  
 Thou sober-suited matron, all in black,

And learn, me how to lose a winning match,  
 Play'd for a pair of stainless maidenhoods :  
 Hood my unmann'd blood, bating in my cheeks,  
 With thy black mantle ; till strange love, grown bold,  
 Think true love acted simple modesty.  
 Come, night ; come, Romeo ; come, thou day in night ;  
 For thou wilt lie upon the wings of night,  
 Whiter than new snow on a raven's back.  
 Come, gentle night, come, loving, black-brow'd night,  
 Give me my Romeo ; and, when he shall die,  
 Take him and cut him out in little stars,  
 And he will make the face of heaven so fine  
 That all the world will be in love with night,  
 And pay no worship to the garish sun.  
 O, I have bought the mansion of a love,  
 But not possess'd it, and, though I am 'sold,  
 Not yet enjoy'd : so tedious is this day  
 As is the night before some festival  
 To an impatient child that hath new robes  
 And may not wear them. O, here comes my nurse,  
 And she brings news ; and every tongue that speaks  
 But Romeo's name speaks heavenly eloquence.

*Enter NURSE, with cords.*

Now, nurse, what news ? What hast thou here ? the cords  
 That Romeo bid thee fetch ?

NURSE. ,

Ay, ay, the cords.

\* Throws them down.

JULIET.

Ay me! what news? why dost thou wring thy hands?

NURSE.

Ah, well-a-day! he's dead, he's dead, he's dead!

We are undone, lady, we are undone!

Alack the day! he's gone, he's kill'd, he's dead!

JULIET.

Can heaven be so envious?

NURSE.

Romeo can,  
Though heaven cannot: O Romeo, Romeo!  
Who ever would have thought it? Romeo!

JULIET.

What devil art thou, that dost torment me thus?  
This torture should be roar'd in dismal hell.  
Hath Romeo slain himself? say thou but ay,  
And that bare vowel *I* shall poison more  
Than the death-darting eye of cockatrice:  
I am not I, if there be such an ay;  
Or those eyes shut, that make thee answer ay.  
If he be slain, say ay; or if not, no:  
Brief sounds determine of my weal or woe.

NURSE.

I saw the wound, I saw it with mine eyes, —  
God save the mark! — here on his manly breast:  
A piteous corse, a bloody piteous corse;  
Pale, pale as ashes, all bedaub'd in blood,  
All in gore-blood; I swounded at the sight.

JULIET.

O, break, my heart! poor bankrupt, break at once!

To prison, eyes, ne'er look on liberty!  
Vile earth, to earth resign; end motion here;  
And thou and Romeo press one heavy bier!

NURSE.

O Tybalt, Tybalt, the best friend I had!  
O courteous Tybalt! honest gentleman!  
That ever I should live to see thee dead!

JULIET

What storm is this that blows so contrary?  
Is Romeo slaughter'd, and is Tybalt dead?  
My dear-lov'd cousin, and my dearer lord?  
Then, dreadful trumpet, sound the general doom!  
For who is living, if those two are gone?

NURSE.

Tybalt is gone, and Romeo banished;  
Romeo that kill'd him, he is banished.

JULIET.

O God! did Romeo's hand shed Tybalt's blood?

NURSE.

It did, it did; alas the day, it did!

JULIET.

O serpent heart, hid with a flow'ring face!  
Did ever dragon keep so fair a cave?  
Beautiful tyrant! fiend angelical!  
Dove-feather'd raven! volvish-ravening lamb!  
Despised substance of divinest show!  
Just opposite to what thou justly seem'st,  
A damned saint, an honourable villain!  
O nature, what hadst thou to do in hell,  
When thou didst bower the spirit of a fiend

In mortal paradise of such sweet flesh?  
Was ever book containing such vile matter  
So fairly bound? O, that deceit *should dwell*  
In such a gorgeous palace!

NURSE.

There's no trust,  
No faith, no honesty in men; all perjur'd,  
All forsworn, all naught, all dissemblers.  
Ah, where 's my man? give me some *aqua vitæ*:  
These griefs, these woes, these sorrows make me old.  
Shame come to Romeo!

JULIET.

Blister'd be thy tongue  
For such a wish! he was not born to shame:  
Upon his brow shame is asham'd to sit;  
For 't is a throne where honour may be crown'd  
Sole monarch of the universal earth.  
O, what a beast was I to chide at him!

NURSE.

Will you speak well of him that kill'd your cousin?

JULIET.

Shall I speak ill of him that is my husband?  
Ah, poor my lord, what tongue shall smooth thy name,  
When I, thy three-hours wife, have mangled it?  
But, wherefore, villain, didst thou kill my cousin?  
That villain cousin would have kill'd my husband:  
Back, foolish tears, back to your native spring;  
Your tributary drops belong to woe,  
Which you, mistaking, offer up to joy.  
My husband lives, that Tybalt would have slain;



And Tybalt 's dead, that would have slain my husband :  
 All this is comfort; wherefore weep I then ?  
 Some word there was, worser than Tybalt's death,  
 That murder'd me : I would forget it fain ;  
 But, O, it presses to my memory,  
 Like damned guilty deeds to sinners' minds :  
 " Tybalt is dead, and Romeo — banished ;"  
 That " banished," that one word " banished,"  
 Hath slain ten thousand Tybalts. Tybalt 's death  
 Was woe enough, if it had ended there :  
 Or, if sour woe delights in fellowship  
 And needly will be rank'd with other griefs,  
 Why follow'd not, when she said " Tybalt 's dead,"  
 Thy father, or thy mother, nay, or both,  
 Which modern lamentation might have mov'd ?  
 But with a rear-ward following Tybalt 's death,  
 " Romeo is banished," to speak that word,  
 Is father, mother, Tybalt, Romeo, Juliet,  
 All slain, all dead. " Romeo is banished !"  
 There is no end, no limit, measure, bound,  
 In that word's death ; no words can that woe sound.  
 Where is my father, and my mother, nurse ?

NURSE.

Weeping and wailing over Tybalt's corse :  
 Will you go to them ? I will bring you thither.

JULIET.

Wash they his wounds with tears : mine shall be spent,  
 When theirs are dry, for Romeo's banishment.  
 Take up those cords : poor ropes, you are beguiled,  
 Both you and I ; for Romeo is exiled :

He made you for a highway to my bed;  
But I, a maid, die maiden-widowed.  
Come, cords, come, nurse; I'll to my wedding-bed;  
And death, not Romeo, take my maidenhead!

NURSE.

Hie to your chamber · I'll find Romeo  
To comfort you · I wot well where he is.  
Hark ye, your Romeo will be here at night:  
I'll to him; he is hid at Laurence' cell

JULIET.

O, find him! give this ring to my true knight,  
And bid him come to take his last farewell

Exeunt

### SCENE III

FRIAR LAURENCE'S CELL.

*Enter* FRIAR LAURENCE.

FRIAR LAURENCE.

Romeo, come forth; come forth, thou fearful man  
Affliction is enamour'd of thy parts,  
And thou art wedded to calamity.

*Enter* ROMEO.

ROMEO.

Father, what news? what is the Prince's doom?  
What sorrow craves acquaintance at my hand,

That I yet know not?

FRIAR LAURENCE.

Too familiar

Is my dear son with such sour company :  
I bring thee tidings of the Prince's doom.

ROMEO.

What less than dooms-day is the Prince's doom?

FRIAR LAURENCE.

A gentler judgement vanish'd from his lips,  
Not body's death, but body's banishment.

ROMEO.

Ha, banishment! be merciful, say death;  
For exile hath more terror in his look,  
Much more than death : do not say banishment.

FRIAR LAURENCE.

Hence from Verona art thou banished :  
Be patient, for the world is broad and wide.

ROMEO.

There is no world without Verona walls,  
But purgatory, torture, hell itself.  
Hence-banished is banish'd from the world,  
And world's exile is death : then banished,  
Is death mis-term'd : calling death banishment,  
Thou cutt'st my head off with a golden axe,  
And smil'st upon the stroke that murders me.

FRIAR LAURENCE.

O deadly sin! O rude unthankfulness!  
Thy fault our law calls death; but the kind prince,  
Taking thy part, hath rush'd aside the law,  
And turn'd that black word death to banishment :

This is dear mercy, and thou seest it not.

ROMEO.

'Tis torture, and not mercy : heaven is here,  
Where Juliet lives ; and every cat and dog  
And little mouse, every unworthy thing,  
Live here in heaven and may look on her ;  
But Romeo may not : more validity,  
More honourable state, more courtship lives  
In carrion-flies than Romeo : they may seize  
On the white wonder of dear Juliet's hand  
And steal immortal blessing from her lips,  
Who, even in pure and vestal modesty,  
Still blush, as thinking their own kisses sin ;  
But Romeo may not ; he is banished :  
This may flies do, but I from this must fly :  
They are free men, but I am banished.  
And say'st thou yet that exile is not death ?  
Hadst thou no poison mix'd, no sharp-ground knife,  
No sudden mean of death, though ne'er so mean,  
But " banished " to kill me ? — Banished ?  
O friar, the damned use that word in hell ;  
Howlings attend it : how hast thou the heart,  
Being a divine, a ghostly confessor,  
A sin-absolver, and my friend profess'd,  
To mangle me with that word " banished " ?

FRIAR LAURENCE.

Thou fond mad man, hear me a little speak.

ROMEO.

O, thou wilt speak again of banishment.

FRIAR LAURENCE.

I'll give thee armour to keep off that word;  
Adversity's sweet milk, philosophy,  
To comfort thee, though thou art banished.

ROMEO.

Yet banished? Hang up philosophy!  
Unless philosophy can make a Juliet,  
Displant a town, reverse a prince's doom,  
It helps not, it prevails not : talk no more.

FRIAR LAURENCE.

O, then I see that madmen have no ears.

ROMEO.

How should they, when that wise men have no eyes?

FRIAR LAURENCE.

Let me dispute with thee of thy estate.

ROMEO.

Thou canst not speak of that thou dost not feel :  
Wert thou as young as I, Juliet thy love,  
An hour but married, Tybalt murdered,  
Doting like me and like me banished,  
Then mightst thou speak, then mightst thou tear thy hair,  
And fall upon the ground, as I do now,  
Taking the measure of an unmade grave.

Knocking within.

FRIAR LAURENCE.

Arise; one knocks; good Romeo, hide thyself.

ROMEO.

Not I, unless the breath of heart-sick groans,  
Mist-like, infold me from the search of eyes.

\*

Knocking

FRIAR LAURENCE.

Hark, how they knock! Who's there? Romeo, arise;  
Thou wilt be taken. Stay awhile! Stand up;

Knocking.

Run to my study. By and by! God's will,  
What simpleness is this! I come, I come!

Knocking.

Who knocks so hard? whence come you? what's your will?

NURSE, within.

Let me come in, and you shall know my errand;  
I come from Lady Juliet.

FRIAR LAURENCE.

Welcome, then.

*Enter* NURSE.

NURSE.

O holy friar, O, tell ~~me~~, holy friar,  
Where is my lady's lord, where 's Romeo?

FRIAR LAURENCE.

There on the ground, with his own tears made drunk.

NURSE.

O, he is even in my mistress' case,  
Just in her case! O woful sympathy!  
Piteous predicament! Even so lies she,  
Blubb'ring and weeping, weeping and blubb'ring.  
Stand up, stand up; stand, an you be a man:  
For Juliet's sake, for her sake, rise and stand;  
Why should you fall into so deep an O?

*Romeo and Juliet.*

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ROMEO.

Nurse!

NURSE.

Ah sir! ah sir! Well, death 's the end of all.

ROMEO.

Spak'st thou of Juliet? how is it with her?  
Doth she not think me an old murtherer,  
Now I have stain'd the childhood of our joy  
With blood remov'd but little from her own?  
Where is she? and how doth she? and what says  
My conceal'd lady to our cancell'd love?

NURSE.

O, she says nothing, sir, but weeps and weeps,  
And now falls on her bed; and then starts up,  
And Tybalt calls; and then on Romeo cries,  
And then down falls again

ROMEO.

As if that name,  
Shot from the deadly level of a gun,  
Did murder her; as that name's cursed hand  
Murder'd her kinsman. O, tell me, friar, tell me,  
In what vile part of this anatomy  
Doth my name lodge? tell me, that I may sack  
The hateful mansion.

*Drawing his dagger.*

FRIAR LAURENCE.

Hold thy desperate hand:  
Art thou a man? thy form cries out thou art.  
Thy tears are womanish; thy wild acts denote  
The unreasonable fury of a beast.

Unseemly woman in a seeming man !  
Or ill-beseeming beast in seeming both !  
Thou hast amaz'd me : by my holy order,  
I thought thy disposition better temper'd.  
Hast thou slain Tybalt ? wilt thou slay thyself ?  
And slay thy lady too that lives in thee,  
By doing damned hate upon thyself ?  
Why rail'st thou on thy birth, the heaven, and earth ?  
Since birth, and heaven, and earth, all three do meet  
In thee at once ; which thou at once wouldst lose.  
Fie, fie, thou sham'st thy shape, thy love, thy wit ;  
Which, like a usurer, abound'st in all,  
And usest none in that true use indeed  
Which should bedeck thy shape, thy love, thy wit  
Thy noble shape is but a form of wax,  
Digressing from the valour of a man ;  
Thy dear love sworn but hollow perjury,  
Killing that love which thou hast vow'd to cherish,  
Thy wit, that ornament to shape and love,  
Mis-shapen in the conduct of them both,  
Like powder in a skilless soldier's flask,  
Is set a-fire by thine own ignorance,  
And thou dismember'd with thine own defence  
What, rouse thee, man ! thy Juliet is alive,  
For whose dear sake thou wast but lately dead ;  
There art thou happy : Tybalt would kill thee,  
But thou slew'st Tybalt ; there art thou happy too  
The law that threaten'd death becomes thy friend  
And turns it to exile ; there art thou happy  
A pack of blessings lights upon thy back ;



Happiness courts thee in her best array;  
But, like a misbehav'd and sullen wench,  
Thou pout'st upon thy fortune and thy love :  
Take heed, take heed, for such die miserable.  
Go, get thee to thy love, as was decreed ;  
Ascend her chamber; hence! and comfort her :  
But look thou stay not till the watch be set,  
For then thou canst not pass to Mantua ;  
Where thou shalt live, till we can find a time  
To blaze your marriage, reconcile your friends,  
Beg pardon of the Prince, and call thee back  
With twenty hundred thousand times more joy  
Than thou went'st forth in lamentation.  
Go before, nurse : commend me to thy lady ;  
And bid her hasten all the house to bed,  
Which heavy sorrow makes them apt unto :  
Romeo is coming.

NURSE.

O Lord, I could have stay'd here all the night  
To hear good counsel · O, what learning is! —  
My lord, I 'll tell my lady you will come.

ROMEO.

Do so, and bid my sweet prepare to chide.

NURSE.

Here, sir, a ring she bid me give you, sir :  
Hie you, make haste, for it grows very late.

Exit.

ROMEO.

How well my comfort is reviv'd by this !

FRIAR LAURENCE.

Go hence; good night; and here stands all your state  
Either be gone before the watch be set,  
Or by the break of day disguis'd from hence :  
Sojourn in Mantua; I'll find out your man,  
And he shall signify from time to time  
Every good hap to you that chances here ·  
Give me thy hand; 't is late : farewell; good night.

ROMEO.

But that a joy past joy calls out on me,  
It were a grief, so brief to part with thee  
Farewell.

Exeunt.

## SCENE IV

A ROOM IN CAPULET'S HOUSE.

*Enter CAPULET, LADY CAPULET, and PARIS*

CAPULET.

Things have fall'n out, sir, so unluckily,  
That we have had no time to move our daughter ·  
Look you, she lov'd her kinsman Tybalt dearly,  
And so did I · — Well, we were born to die.  
'T is very late, she'll not come down to-night :  
I promise you, but for your company,  
I would have been a-bed an hour ago.

PARIS.

These times of woe afford no time to woo.

Madam, good night : commend me to your daughter.

LADY CAPULET.

I will, and know her mind early to-morrow ;  
To-night she is mew'd up to her heaviness.

CAPULET.

Sir Paris, I will make a desperate tender  
Of my child's love : I think she will be rul'd  
In all respects by me ; nay, more, I doubt it not.  
Wife, go you to her ere you go to bed ;  
Acquaint her here of my son Paris' love ;  
And bid her, mark you me, on Wednesday next —  
But, soft ! what day is this ?

PARIS.

Monday, my lord.

CAPULET.

Monday ! ha, ha ! Well, Wednesday is too soon,  
O' Thursday let it be : o' Thursday, tell her,  
She shall be married to this noble earl.  
Will you be ready ? do you like this haste ?  
We 'll keep no great ado, — a friend or two ;  
For, hark you, Tybalt being slun so late,  
It may be thought we held him carelessly,  
Being our kinsman, if we revel much :  
Therefore we 'll have some half a dozen friends,  
And there an end. But what say you to Thursday ?

PARIS.

My lord, I would that Thursday were to-morrow.

CAPULET.

Well, get you gone : o' Thursday be it, then  
Go you to Juliet ere you go to bed ;









Prepare her, wife, against this wedding-day.  
Farewell, my lord. Light to my chamber, ho!  
Afore me! it is so very very late,  
That we may call it early by and by.  
Good night.

*Exeunt.*

## SCENE V

JULIET'S CHAMBER, WITH WINDOW AND BALCONY OPENING  
UPON CAPULET'S ORCHARD.

*Enter ROMEO and JULIET*

JULIET.

Wilt thou be gone? it is not yet near day.  
It was the nightingale, and not the lark,  
That pierc'd the fearful hollow of thine ear;  
Nightly she sings on yon pomegranate-tree  
Believe me, love, it was the nightingale.

ROMEO.

It was the lark, the herald of the morn,  
No nightingale: look, love, what envious streaks  
Do lace the severing clouds in yonder east.  
Night's candles are burnt out, and jocund day  
Stands tip-toe on the misty mountain tops.  
I must be gone and live, or stay and die.

JULIET.

Yon light is not day-light, I know it, I  
It is some meteor that the sun exhales,



To be to thee this night a torch-bearer,  
And light thee on thy way to Mantua :  
Therefore stay yet; thou need'st not to be gone.

ROMEO.

Let me be ta'en, let me be put to death;  
I am content, so thou wilt have it so.  
I'll say yon grey is not the morning's eye,  
'T is but the pale reflex of Cynthia's brow;  
Nor that is not the lark, whose notes do beat  
The vaulty heaven so high above our heads :  
I have more care to stay than will to go :  
Come, death, and welcome! Juliet wills it so.  
How is 't, my soul? let's talk; it is not day.

JULIET.

It is, it is hie hence, be gone, away!  
It is the lark that sings so out of tune,  
Straining harsh discords and unpleasing sharps.  
Some say the lark makes sweet division;  
This doth not so, for she divideth us.  
Some say the lark and loathed toad chang'd eyes;  
O, now I would they had chang'd voices too!  
Since arm from arm that voice doth us affray,  
Hunting thee hence with hunt's-up to the day.  
O, now be gone; more light and light it grows.

ROMEO.

More light and light; more dark and dark our woes!

*Enter NURSE, from the chamber*

NURSE.

Madam!

JULIET.

Nurse?

NURSE.

Your lady mother is coming to your chamber :  
The day is broke ; be wary, look about.

Exit.

JULIET.

Then, window, let day in, and let life out.

ROMEO.

Farewell, farewell ! one kiss, and I'll descend.

Romeo descends.

JULIET.

Art thou gone so ? love, lord, ay, husband, friend !  
I must hear from thee every day in the hour,  
For in a minute there are many days :  
O, by this count I shall be much in years  
Ere I again behold my Romeo !

ROMEO, from below.

Farewell !

I will omit no opportunity  
That may convey my greetings, love, to thee.

JULIET.

O, think'st thou we shall ever meet again ?

ROMEO.

I doubt it not ; and all these woes shall serve  
For sweet discourses in our time to come.

JULIET.

O God, I have an ill-divining soul !  
Methinks I see thee, now thou art below,  
As one dead in the bottom of a tomb :

*Romeo and Juliet.*

Either my eyesight fails, or thou look'st pale.

ROMEO.

And trust me, love, in my eye so do you :  
Dry sorrow drinks our blood. Adieu, adieu !

*Exit from below*

JULIET.

O fortune, fortune ! all men call thee fickle :  
If thou art fickle, what dost thou with him  
That is renown'd for faith ? Be fickle, fortune,  
For then, I hope, thou wilt not keep him long,  
But send him back.

LADY CAPULET, *within*.

Ho, daughter ! are you up ?

JULIET.

Who is 't that calls ? is it my lady mother ?  
Is she not down so late, or up so early ?  
What unaccustom'd cause procures her hither ?

*Enter LADY CAPULET*

LADY CAPULET.

Why, how now, Juliet !

JULIET.

Madam, I am not well.

LADY CAPULET.

Evermore weeping for your cousin's death ?  
What, wilt thou wash him from his grave with tears ?  
An if thou couldst, thou couldst not make him live ;  
Therefore, have done : some grief shows much of love ;  
But much of grief shows still some want of wit.

JULIET.

Yet let me weep for such a feeling loss.

LADY CAPULET.

So shall you feel the loss, but not the friend  
Which you weep for.

JULIET.

Feeling so the loss,  
I cannot choose but ever weep the friend.

LADY CAPULET.

Well, girl, thou weep'st not so much for his death,  
As that the villain lives which slaughter'd him.

JULIET.

What villain, madam?

LADY CAPULET.

That same villain, Romeo.

JULIET, *aside*.

Villain and he be many miles asunder. —  
God pardon him! I do, with all my heart;  
And yet no man like he doth grieve my heart.

LADY CAPULET.

That is, because the traitor-murderer lives.

JULIET.

Ay, madam, *from the reach of these my hands*:  
Would none but I might venge my cousin's death!

LADY CAPULET.

We will have vengeance for it, fear thou not:  
Then weep no more. I'll send to one in Mantua,  
Where that same banish'd runagate doth live,  
Shall give him such an unaccustom'd dram,  
That he shall soon keep Tybalt company:

And then, I hope, thou wilt be satisfied.

JULIET.

Indeed, I never shall be satisfied  
With Romeo, till I behold him — dead —  
Is my poor heart, so for a kinsman vex'd:  
Madam, if you could find out but a man  
To bear a poison, I would temper it;  
That Romeo should, upon receipt thereof,  
Soon sleep in quiet. O, how my heart abhors  
To hear him nam'd, and cannot come to him,  
To wreak the love I bore my cousin  
Upon his body that hath slaughter'd him!

LADY CAPULET.

Find thou the means, and I 'll find such a man.  
But now I 'll tell thee joyful tidings, girl.

JULIET.

And joy comes well in such a needy time:  
What are they, I beseech your ladyship?

LADY CAPULET.

Well, well, thou hast a careful father, child;  
One who, to put thee from thy heaviness,  
Hath sorted out a sudden day of joy,  
That thou expect'st not nor I look'd not for.

JULIET.

Madam, in happy time, what day is that?

LADY CAPULET.

Marry, my child, early next Thursday morn,  
The gallant, young and noble gentleman,  
The County Paris, at Saint Peter's Church,  
Shall happily make thee there a joyful bride.

JULIET.

Now, by Saint Peter's Church and Peter too,  
He shall not make me there a joyful bride.  
I wonder at this haste; that I must wed  
Ere he, that should be husband, comes to woo.  
I pray you, tell my lord and father, madam,  
I will not marry yet; and, when I do, I swear,  
It shall be Romeo, whom you know I hate,  
Rather than Paris. These are news indeed!

LADY CAPULET.

Here comes your father; tell him so yourself,  
And see how he will take it at your hands.

*Enter CAPULET and NURSE*

CAPULET.

When the sun sets, the air doth drizzle dew;  
But for the sunset of my brother's son  
It rains downright.  
How now! a conduit, girl? what, still in tears?  
Evermore show'ring. In one little body  
Thou counterfeit'st a bark, a sea, a wind;  
For still thy eyes, which I may call the sea,  
Do ebb and flow with tears; the bark thy body is,  
Sailing in this salt flood; the winds, thy sighs;  
Who, raging with thy tears, and they with them,  
Without a sudden calm, will overset  
Thy tempest-tossed body. How now, wife!  
Have you deliver'd to her our decree?

LADY CAPULET.

Ay, sir; but she will none, she gives you thanks.

I would the fool were married to her grave!

CAPULET.

Soft! take me with you, take me with you, wife.  
How! will she none? doth she not give us thanks?  
Is she not proud? doth she not count her blest,  
Unworthy as she is, that we have wrought  
So worthy a gentleman to be her bridegroom?

JULIET.

Not proud, you have; but thankful that you have:  
Proud can I never be of what I hate;  
But thankful even for hate, that is meant love.

CAPULET.

How now, how now, chop-logic! What is this?  
"Proud," and "I thank you," and "I thank you not;  
And yet "not proud," mistress minion, you,  
Thank me no thankings, nor proud me no prouds,  
But fettle your fine joints 'gainst Thursday next,  
To go with Paris to Saint Peter's Church,  
Or I will drag thee on a hurdle thither.  
Out, you green-sickness carrion! out, you baggage!  
You tallow-face!

LADY CAPULET.

Fie, fie! what, are you mad?

JULIET.

Good father, I beseech you on my knees,  
Hear me with patience but to speak a word.

CAPULET.

Hang thee, young baggage! disobedient wretch!  
I tell thee what: get thee to church o' Thursday,  
Or never after look me in the face:

Speak not, reply not, do not answer me  
My fingers itch. Wife, we scarce thought us blest  
That God had lent us but this only child;  
But now I see this one is one too much,  
And that we have a curse in having her :  
Out on her, hilding!

NURSE.

God in heaven bless her!  
You are to blame, my lord, to rate her so.

CAPULET.

\*And why, my lady wisdom? hold your tongue,  
Good prudence; smatter with your gossips, go

NURSE.

I speak no treason.

CAPULET.

O, God ye god-den.

NURSE.

May not one speak?

CAPULET.

Peace, you mumbling fool!  
Utter your gravity o'er a gossip's bowl;  
For here we need it not.

LADY CAPULET.

You are too hot.

CAPULET.

God's bread! it makes me mad :  
Day, night, hour, tide, time, work, play,  
Alone, in company, still my care hath been  
To have her match'd : and having now provided  
A gentleman of noble parentage,



Of fair demesnes, youthful, and nobly train'd,  
Stuff'd, as they say, with honourable parts,  
Proportion'd as one's thought would wish a man;  
And then to have a wretched puling fool,  
A whining mammet, in her fortune's tender,  
To answer "I'll not wed; I cannot love,  
I am too young; I pray you, pardon me."  
But, an you will not wed, I'll pardon you:  
Graze where you will, you shall not house with me:  
Look to 't, think on 't, I do not use to jest.  
Thursday is near; lay hand on heart, advise:  
An you be mine, I'll give you to my friend;  
An you be not, hang, beg, starve, die in the streets,  
For, by my soul, I'll ne'er acknowledge thee,  
Nor what is mine shall never do thee good:  
Trust to 't, bethink you; I'll not be forsworn.

Exit.

JULIET.

Is there no pity sitting in the clouds,  
That sees into the bottom of my grief?  
O, sweet my mother, cast me not away!  
Delay this marriage for a month, a week;  
Or, if you do not, make the bridal bed  
In that dim monument where Tybalt lies.

LADY CAPULET.

Talk not to me, for I'll not speak a word:  
Do as thou wilt, for I have done with thee.

Exit.

JULIET.

O God! — O nurse, how shall this be prevented?

My husband is on earth, my faith in heaven ;  
 How shall that faith return again to earth,  
 Unless that husband send it me from heaven  
 By leaving earth? comfort me, counsel me.  
 Alack, alack, that heaven should practice stratagems  
 Upon so soft a subject as myself!  
 What say'st thou? hast thou not a word of joy?  
 Some comfort, nurse.

NURSE.

Faith, here it is.

\* Romeo is banish'd; and all the world to nothing,  
 That he dares ne'er come back to challenge you;  
 Or, if he do, it needs must be by stealth.  
 Then, since the case so stands as now it doth,  
 I think it best you married with the county.  
 O, he 's a lovely gentleman!  
 Romeo 's a dishclout to him: an eagle, madam,  
 Hath not so green, so quick, so fair an eye  
 As Paris hath. Beshrew my very heart,  
 I think you are happy in this second match,  
 For it excels your first: or if it did not,  
 Your first is dead; or 't were as good he were,  
 As living here and you no use of him.

JULIET.

Speakest thou from thy heart?

NURSE.

And from my soul too;

Or else beshrew them both.

JULIET.

Amen!

NURSE.

What?

JULIET.

Well, thou hast comforted me marvellous much.  
Go in; and tell my lady I am gone,  
Having displeas'd my father, to Laurence' cell,  
To make confession and to be absolv'd.

NURSE.

Marry, I will; and this is wisely done

Exit

JULIET.

Ancient damnation! O most wicked fiend!  
Is it more sin to wish me thus forsworn,  
Or to dispraise my lord with that same tongue  
Which she hath prais'd him with above compare  
So many thousand times? Go, counsellor;  
Thou and my bosom henceforth shall be twain.  
I'll to the friar, to know his remedy:  
If all else fail, myself have power to die

Exit



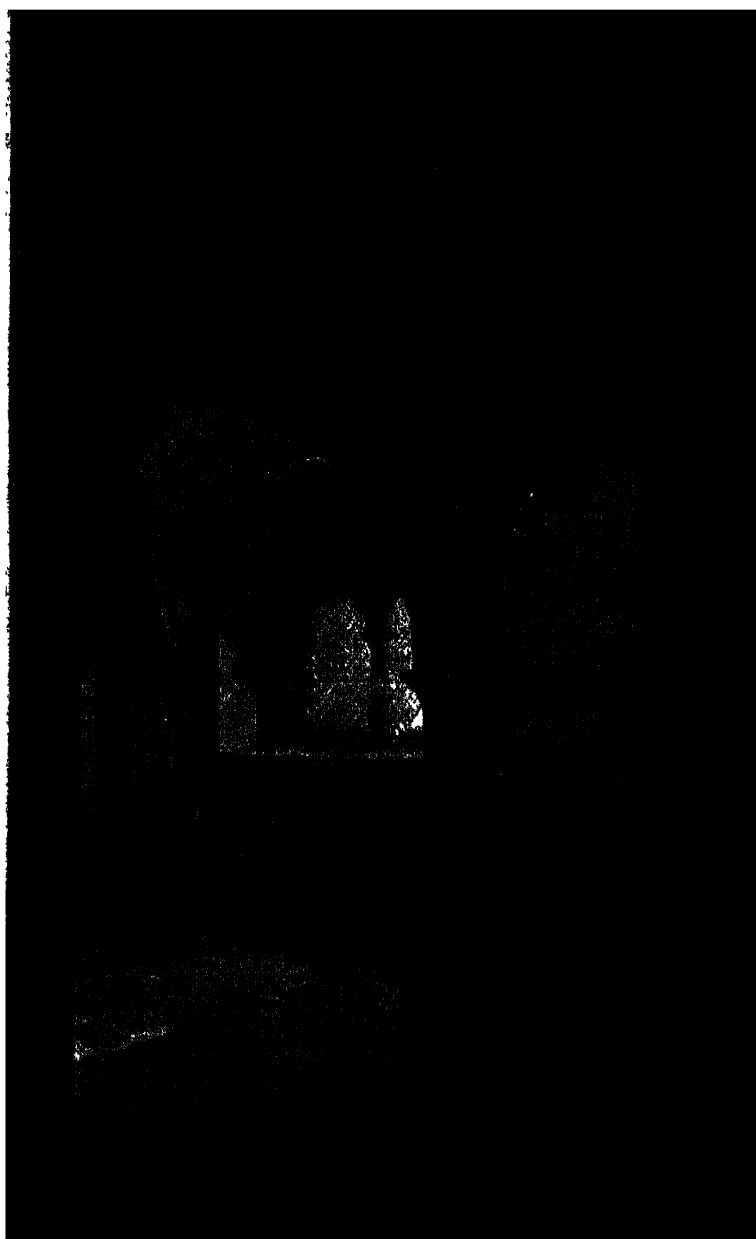


















## ACT IV

### SCENE I

FRIAR LAURENCE'S CELL.

*Enter FRIAR LAURENCE and PARIS.*

FRIAR LAURENCE.

On Thursday, sir? the time is very short.

PARIS.

My father Capulet will have it so;  
And I am nothing quick to slow his haste.

FRIAR LAURENCE.

You say you do not know the lady's mind :  
Uneven is the course, I like it not.

PARIS.

Immoderately she weeps for Tybalt's death,  
And therefore have I little talk'd of love;  
For Venus smiles not in a house of tears.  
Now, sir, her father counts it dangerous  
That she doth give her sorrow so much sway,  
And in his wisdom hastes our marriage,  
To stop the inundation of her tears;  
Which, too much minded by herself alone,  
May be put from her by society :  
Now do you know the reason of this haste.

FRIAR LAURENCE, *aside*.

I would I knew not why it should be slow'd.  
Look, sir, here comes the lady towards my cell.

*Enter JULIET.*

PARIS.

Happily met, my lady and my wife!

JULIET.

'That may be, sir, when I may be a wife.

PARIS.

'That may be must be, love, on Thursday next.

JULIET

What must be shall be.

FRIAR LAURENCE.

That 's a certain text.

PARIS.

Come you to make confession to this father?

JULIET.

To answer that, I should confess to you.

*ACT IV, SCENE I*

PARIS.

Do not deny to him that you love me.

JULIET.

I will confess to you that I love him.

PARIS.

So will ye, I am sure, that you love me.

JULIET.

If I do so, it will be of more price,  
Being spoke behind your back, than to your face.

PARIS.

Poor soul, thy face is much abus'd with tears.

JULIET.

The tears have got small victory by that;  
For it was bad enough before their spite.

PARIS.

Thou wrong'st it, more than tears, with that report.

JULIET.

That is no slander, sir, which is a truth;  
And what I spake, I spake it to my face.

PARIS.

Thy face is mine, and thou hast slander'd it

JULIET.

It may be so, for it is not mine own.  
Are you at leisure, holy father, now;  
Or shall I come to you at evening mass?

FRIAR LAURENCE.

My leisure serves me, pensive daughter, now.  
My lord, we must entreat the time alone.

PARIS

God shield I should disturb devotion!

Juliet, on Thursday early will I rouse ye :  
'Till then, adieu ; and keep this holy kiss.

Exit.

JULIET.

O, shut the door ! and when thou hast done so,  
Come weep with me ; past hope, past cure, past help !

FRIAR LAURENCE.

Ah, Juliet, I already know thy grief  
It strains me past the compass of my wits :  
I hear thou must, and nothing may prorogue it,  
On Thursday next be married to this county.

JULIET.

'Tell me not, friar, that thou hear'st of this,  
Unless thou tell me how I may prevent it ·  
If, in thy wisdom, thou canst give no help,  
Do thou but call my resolution wise,  
And with this knife I 'll help it presently.  
God join'd my heart and Romeo's, thou our hands,  
And ere this hand, by thee to Romeo seal'd,  
Shall be the label to another deed,  
Or my true heart with treacherous revolt  
Turn to another, this shall slay them both ·  
Therefore, out of thy long-experienc'd time,  
Give me some present counsel, or, behold,  
'Twixt my extremes and me this bloody knife  
Shall play the umpire, arbitrating that  
Which the commission of thy years and art  
Could to no issue of true honour bring.  
Be not so long to speak : I long to die,  
If what thou speak'st speak not of remedy.

ACT IV, SCENE I

FRIAR LAURENCE.

Hold, daughter . I do spy a kind of hope,  
Which craves as desperate an execution  
As that is desperate which we would prevent.  
If, rather than to marry County Paris,  
Thou hast the strength of will to slay thyself,  
Then is it likely thou wilt undertake  
A thing like death to chide away this shame,  
That cop'st with death himself to scape from it;  
And, if thou dar'st, I 'll give thee remedy.

JULIET.

O, bid me leap, rather than marry Paris,  
From off the battlements of yonder tower;  
Or walk in thievish ways; or bid me lurk  
Where serpents are; chain me with roaring bears,  
Or shut me nightly in a charnel-house,  
O'er-cover'd quite with dead men's rattling bones,  
With reeky shanks and yellow chapless skulls;  
Or bid me go into a new-made grave  
And hide me with a dead man in his shroud;  
Things that, to hear them told, have made me trembl  
And I will do it without fear or doubt,  
To live an unstain'd wife to my sweet love.

FRIAR LAURENCE.

Hold, then; go home, be merry, give consent  
To marry Paris : Wednesday is to-morrow :  
To-morrow night look that thou lie alone,  
Let not thy nurse lie with thee in thy chamber :  
Take thou this vial, being then in bed,  
And this distilled liquor drink thou off;



When presently through all thy veins shall run  
A cold and drowsy humour; for no pulse  
Shall keep his native progress, but surcease :  
No warmth, no breath, shall testify thou livest;  
The roses in thy lips and cheeks shall fade  
To paly ashes, thy eyes' windows fall,  
Like death, when he shuts up the day of life;  
Each part, depriv'd of supple government,  
Shall, stiff and stark and cold, appear like death :  
And in this borrow'd likeness of shrunk death  
Thou shalt continue two and forty hours,  
And then awake as from a pleasant sleep.  
Now, when the bridegroom in the morning comes  
To rouse thee from thy bed, there art thou dead :  
Then, as the manner of our country is,  
In thy best robes uncover'd on the bier  
Thou shalt be borne to that same ancient vault  
Where all the kindred of the Capulets lie.  
In the mean time, against thou shalt awake,  
Shall Romeo by my letters know our drift,  
And hither shall he come : and he and I  
Will watch thy waking, and that very night  
Shall Romeo bear thee hence to Mantua.  
And this shall free thee from this present shame ;  
If no inconstant toy, nor womanish fear,  
Abate thy valour in the acting it.

JULIET.

Give me, give me! O, tell not me of fear!

FRIAR LAURENCE.

Hold; get you gone, be strong and prosperous

In this resolve : I 'll send a friar with speed  
To Mantua, with my letters to thy lord.

JULIET.

Love give me strength ! and strength shall help afford.  
Farewell, dear father !

Exeunt.

SCENE II

HALL IN CAPULET'S HOUSE.

*Enter* CAPULET, LADY CAPULET, NURSE,  
and two SERVINGMEN.

CAPULET.

So many guests invite as here are writ.

*Exit First Servant.*

Sirrah, go hire me twenty cunning cooks.

SECOND SERVANT.

You shall have none ill, sir ; for I 'll try if they can  
lick their fingers.

CAPULET.

How canst thou try them so ?

SECOND SERVANT.

Marry, sir, 't is an ill cook that cannot lick his own  
fingers : therefore he that cannot lick his fingers goes  
not with me.

CAPULET.

Go, be gone.

*Exit Second Servant.*

We shall be much unfurnish'd for this time.

*Romeo and Juliet.*

What, is my daughter gone to Friar Laurence?

NURSE.

Ay, forsooth.

CAPULET.

Well, he may chance to do some good on her.  
A peevish self-will'd harlotry it is.

NURSE.

See where she comes from shrift with merry look.

*Enter JULIET.*

CAPULET.

How now, my headstrong! where have you been gadding?

JULIET.

Where I have learn'd me to repent the sin  
Of disobedient opposition  
To you and your behests, and am enjoin'd  
By holy Laurence to fall prostrate here,  
And beg your pardon: pardon, I beseech you!  
Henceforward I am ever rul'd by you.

CAPULET.

Send for the county; go tell him of this:  
I'll have this knot knit up to-morrow morning.

JULIET.

I met the youthful lord at Laurence' cell;  
And gave him what becomed love I might,  
Not stepping o'er the bounds of modesty.

CAPULET.

Why, I am glad on 't; this is well: stand up:  
This is as 't should be. Let me see the county:  
Ay, marry, go, I say, and fetch him hither.

Now, afore God! this reverend holy friar,  
All our whole city is much bound to him.

JULIET.

Nurse, will you go with me into my closet,  
To help me sort such needful ornaments  
As you think fit to furnish me to-morrow?

LADY CAPULET.

No, not till Thursday; there is time enough.

CAPULET.

Go, nurse, go with her: we'll to church to-morrow

Exeunt Juliet and Nurse

LADY CAPULET.

We shall be short in our provision:  
'Tis now near night.

CAPULET.

Tush, I will stir about,  
And all things shall be well, I warrant thee, wife:  
Go thou to Juliet, help to deck up her;  
I'll not to bed to-night; let me alone;  
I'll play the housewife for this once. What, ho!  
They are all forth. Well, I will walk myself  
To County Paris, to prepare him up  
Against to-morrow: my heart is wondrous light,  
Since this same wayward girl is so reclaim'd.

Exeunt.

## SCENE III

JULIET'S CHAMBER.

*Enter JULIET and NURSE.*

JULIET.

Ay, those attires are best : but, gentle nurse,  
I pray thee, leave me to myself to-night ;  
For I have need of many orisons  
To move the heavens to smile upon my state,  
Which, well thou know'st, is cross and full of sin.

*Enter LADY CAPULET.*

LADY CAPULET.

What, are you busy, ho? need you my help?

JULIET.

No, madam, ; we have cull'd such necessities  
As are behoveful for our state to-morrow :  
So please you, let me now be left alone,  
And let the nurse this night sit up with you ;  
For, I am sure, you have your hands full all,  
In this so sudden business.

LADY CAPULET.

Good night :

Get thee to bed, and rest ; for thou hast need.

*Exeunt Lady Capulet and Nurse.*

JULIET.

Farewell! God knows when we shall meet again.  
I have a faint cold fear thrills through my veins,

That almost freezes up the heat of life :

I'll call them back again to comfort me :

Nurse! What should she do here?

My dismal scene I needs must act alone.

Come, vial.

What if this mixture do not work at all?

Shall I be married then to-morrow morning?

No, no : this shall forbid it : lie thou there.

*Laying down her dagger*

What if it be a poison, which the friar

Subtly hath minister'd to have me dead,

Lest in this marriage he should be dishonour'd,

Because he married me before to Romeo?

I fear it is : and yet, methinks, it should not,

For he hath still been tried a holy man.

How if, when I am laid into the tomb,

I wake before the time that Romeo

Come to redeem me? there's a fearful point!

Shall I not, then, be stifled in the vault,

To whose foul mouth no healthsome air breathes in,

And there die strangled ere my Romeo comes?

Or, if I live, is it not very like,

The horrible conceit of death and night,

Together with the terror of the place, —

As in a vault, an ancient receptacle,

Where, for these many hundred years, the bones

Of all my buried ancestors are pack'd :

Where bloody Tybalt, yet but green in earth,

Lies fest'ring in his shroud; where, as they say,

At some hours in the night spirits resort; —

Alack, alack, is it not like that I,  
So early waking, what with loathsome smells,  
And shrieks like mandrakes' torn out of the earth,  
That living mortals, hearing them, run mad : —  
O, if I wake, shall I not be distraught,  
Environed with all these hideous fears?  
And madly play with my forefathers' joints?  
And pluck the mangled Tybalt from his shroud?  
And, in this rage, with some great kinsman's bone,  
As with a club, dash out my desperate brains?  
O, look! methinks I see my cousin's ghost  
Seeking out Romeo, that did spit his body  
Upon a rapier's point : stay Tybalt, stay!  
Romeo, Romeo! this do I drink to thee.

*She falls upon her bed, within the curtains*

## SCENE IV

HALL IN CAPULET'S HOUSE.

*Enter* LADY CAPULET *and* NURSE

LADY CAPULET.

Hold, take these keys, and fetch more spices, nurse.

NURSE.

They call for dates and quinces in the pastry.

*Enter* CAPULET.

CAPULET.

Come, stir, stir, stir! the second cock hath crow'd,

The curfew-bell hath rung, 't is three o'clock :  
Look to the bak'd meats, good Angelica :  
Spare not for cost.

NURSE.

Go, you cot-quean, go,  
Get you to bed; faith, you 'll be sick to-morrow  
For this night's watching.

CAPULET.

No, not a whit : what ! I have watch'd ere now  
All night for lesser cause, and ne'er been sick.

LADY CAPULET.

Ay, you have been a mouse-hunt in your time ;  
But I will watch you from such watching now.

Exeunt Lady Capulet and Nurse.

CAPULET.

A jealous-hood, a jealous-hood !

Enter three or four Servingmen, with spits, logs, and baskets.

Now, fellow,

What 's there ?

FIRST SERVANT.

Things for the cook, sir ; but I know not what.

CAPULET.

Make haste, make haste.

Exit First Servant.

Sirrah, fetch drier logs :

Call Peter, he will show thee where they are.

SECOND SERVANT.

I have a head, sir, that will find out logs,  
And never trouble Peter for the matter.

Exit.



CAPULET.

Mass, and well said; a merry whoreson, ha!  
Thou shalt be logger-head. Good faith, 't is day:  
The county will be here with music straight,  
For so he said he would: I hear him near.

Music within.

Nurse! Wife! What, ho! What, nurse, I say!

Re-enter NURSE.

Go waken Juliet, go and trim her up;  
I'll go and chat with Paris: hie, make haste,  
Make haste; the bridegroom he is come already:  
Make haste, I say.

Exeunt

## SCENE V

JULIET'S CHAMBER.

Enter NURSE.

NURSE.

Mistress! what, mistress! Juliet! fast, I warrant her, she:  
Why, lamb! why, lady! fie, you slug-a-bed!  
Why, love, I say, madam! sweet-heart! why, bride!  
What, not a word? you take your pennyworths now;  
Sleep for a week; for the next night, I warrant,  
The County Paris hath set up his rest,  
That you shall rest but little. God forgive me,  
Marry, and amen, how sound is she asleep!









I must needs wake her. Madam, madam, madam!  
Ay, let the county take you in your bed;  
He 'll fright you up, i' faith. Will it not be?

*Draws back the bed-curtains.*

What, dress'd! and in your clothes and down again!  
I must needs wake you: Lady! lady! lady!  
Alas, alas! Help, help! my lady's dead!  
O, well-a-day, that ever I was born!  
Some *aqua vitæ*, ho! My lord! my lady!

*Enter* LADY CAPULET

LADY CAPULET.

What noise is here?

NURSE.

O lamentable day!

LADY CAPULET.

What is the matter?

NURSE.

Look, look! O heavy day!

LADY CAPULET.

O me, O me! My child, my only life,  
Revive, look up, or I will die with thee!  
Help, help! Call help.

*Enter* CAPULET.

CAPULET.

For shame, bring Juliet forth; her lord is come

NURSE.

She's dead, deceas'd, she's dead, alack the day!

*Romeo and Juliet.*

LADY CAPULET.

Alack the day, she 's dead, she 's dead, she 's dead!

CAPULET.

Ha! let me see her : out, alas! she 's cold;  
Her blood is settled, and her joints are stiff;  
Life and these lips have long been separated :  
Death lies on her like an untimely frost  
Upon the sweetest flower of all the field.

NURSE.

O lamentable day!

LADY CAPULET.

O woful time!

CAPULET.

Death, that hath ta'en her hence to make me wail,  
Ties up my tongue, and will not let me speak.

*Enter* FRIAR LAURENCE *and* PARIS, *with* MUSICIANS.

FRIAR LAURENCE.

Come, is the bride ready to go to church?

CAPULET.

Ready to go, but never to return.  
O son! the night before thy wedding-day  
Hath Death lain with thy wife. There she lies  
Flower as she was, deflowered by him.  
Death is my son-in-law, Death is my heir;  
My daughter he hath wedded : I will die,  
And leave him all; life, living, all is Death's.

PARIS.

Have I thought long to see this morning's face,  
And doth it give me such a sight as this?

LADY CAPULET.

Accurs'd, unhappy, wretched, hateful day!  
Most miserable hour that e'er time saw  
In lasting labour of his pilgrimage!  
But one, poor one, one poor and loving child,  
But one thing to rejoice and solace in,  
And cruel death hath catch'd it from my sight!

NURSE.

O woe! O woful, woful, woful day!  
Most lamentable day, most woful day,  
That ever, ever, I did yet behold!  
O day! O day! O day! O hateful day!  
Never was seen so black a day as this:  
O woful day, O woful day!

PARIS. ♣

Beguil'd, divorc'd, wronged, spited, slain!  
Most detestable death, by thee beguil'd,  
By cruel cruel thee quite overthrown!  
O love! O life! not life, but love in death!

CAPULET.

Despis'd, distressed, hated, martyr'd, kill'd!  
Uncomfortable time, why cam'st thou now  
To murder, murder our solemnity?  
O child! O child! my soul, and not my child!  
Dead art thou! Alack! my child is dead;  
And with my child my joys are buried.

FRIAR LAURENCE.

Peace, ho, for shame! confusion's cure lives not  
In these confusions. Heaven and yourself  
Had part in this fair maid; now heaven hath all,



And all the better is it for the maid :  
 Your part in her you could not keep from death,  
 But heaven keeps his part in eternal life.  
 The most you sought was her promotion ;  
 For 't was your heaven she should be advanc'd ;  
 And weep ye now, seeing she is advanc'd  
 Above the clouds, as high as heaven itself ?  
 O, in this love, you love your child so ill,  
 That you run mad, seeing that she is well :  
 She 's not well married that lives married long ;  
 But she 's best married that dies married young.  
 Dry up your tears, and stick your rosemary  
 On this fair corse ; and, as the custom is,  
 In all her best array bear her to church :  
 For though fond nature bids us all lament  
 Yet nature's tears are reason's merriment.

## CAPULET.

All things that we ordained festival,  
 Turn from their office to black funeral ;  
 Our instruments to melancholy bells,  
 Our wedding cheer to a sad burial feast,  
 Our solemn hymns to sullen dirgēs change,  
 Our bridal flowers serve for a buried corse,  
 And all things change them to the contrary.

## FRIAR LAURENCE.

Sir, go you in ; and, madam, go with him ;  
 And go, Sir Paris ; every one prepare  
 To follow this fair corse unto her grave :  
 The heavens do lour upon you for some ill ;

Move them no more by crossing their high will.

*Exeunt Capulet, Lady Capulet, Paris, and Friar.*

FIRST MUSICIAN.

Faith, we may put up our pipes, and be gone.

NURSE.

Honest good fellows, ah, put up, put up;

For, well you know, this is a pitiful case.

*Exit.*

FIRST MUSICIAN.

Ay, by my troth, the case may be amended.

*Enter PETER.*

PETER.

Musicians, O; musicians, "Heart's ease, Heart's ease:" O, an you will have ~~me~~ live, play "Heart's ease."

FIRST MUSICIAN.

Why "Heart's ease"?

PETER.

O, musicians, because my heart itself plays "My heart is full of woe:" O, play me some merry dump, to comfort me.

FIRST MUSICIAN.

Not a dump we: 't is no time to play now.

PETER.

You will not, then?

FIRST MUSICIAN.

No.

PETER.

I will then give it you soundly.

FIRST MUSICIAN.

What will you give us?

PETER.

No money, on my faith, but the gleeke; I will give you the minstrel.

FIRST MUSICIAN.

Then will I give you the serving-creature.

PETER.

Then will I lay the serving-creature's dagger on your pate. I will carry no crotchets · I 'll *re* you, I 'll *fa* you; do you note me?

FIRST MUSICIAN.

An you *re* us and *fa* us, you note us.

SECOND MUSICIAN.

Pray you, put up your dagger, and put out your wit.

PETER.

Then have at you with my wit! I will dry-beat you with an iron wit, and put up my iron dagger. Answer me like men :

· When griping grief the heart doth wound  
And doleful dumps the mind oppress,  
Then music with her silver sound " —

why "silver sound?" why "music with her silver sound"?  
What say you, Simon Catling?

FIRST MUSICIAN.

Marry, sir, because silver hath a sweet sound.

PETER.

Pretty! What say you, Hugh Rebeck?

SECOND MUSICIAN.

I say " silver sound, " because musicians sound for silver.

PETER.

Pretty too! What say you, James Soundpost?

THIRD MUSICIAN.

Faith, I know not what to say.

PETER.

O, I cry you mercy; you are the singer : I will say for you. It is "music with her silver sound," because musicians have no gold for sounding :

" Then music with her silver sound  
With speedy help doth lend redress. "

Exit.

FIRST MUSICIAN.

What a pestilent knave is this same!

SECOND MUSICIAN.

Hang him, Jack! Come, we 'll in here; tarry for the mourners, and stay dinner.

Exeunt.











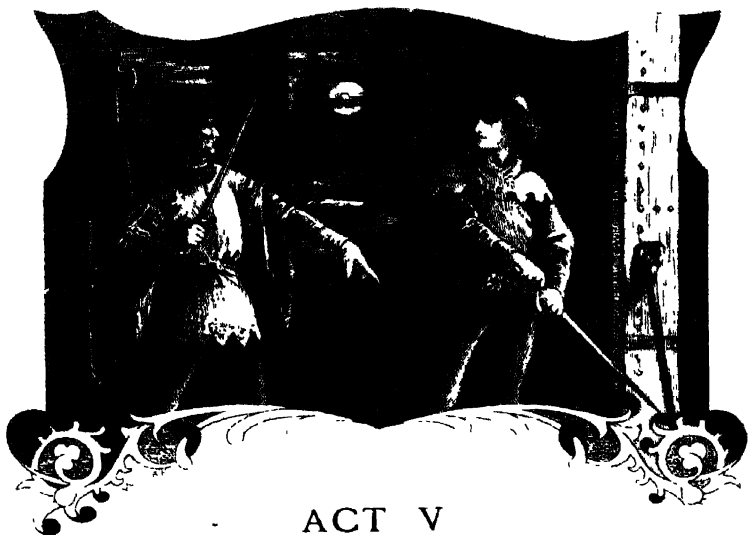












## ACT V

### SCENE I

MANTUA. — A STREET.

*Enter* ROMEO.

ROMEO.

If I may trust the flattering sooth of sleep,  
My dreams presage some joyful news at hand :  
My bosom's lord sits lightly in his throne ;  
And all this day an unaccustom'd spirit  
Lifts me above the ground with cheerful thoughts.  
I dreamt my lady came and found me dead —  
Strange dream, that gives a dead man leave to think !

*Romeo and Juliet.*

And breath'd such life with kisses in my lips,  
That I reviv'd, and was an emperor.  
Ah me! how sweet is love itself possess'd,  
When but love's shadows are so rich in joy!

*Enter BALTHASAR, booted.*

News from Verona! — How now, Balthasar!  
Dost thou not bring me letters from the friar?  
How doth my lady? Is my father well?  
How fares my Juliet? that I ask again;  
For nothing can be ill, if she be well.

BALTHASAR.

Then she is well, and nothing can be ill:  
Her body sleeps in Capels' monument,  
And her immortal part with angels lives.  
I saw her laid low in her kindred's vault.  
And presently took post to tell it you:  
O, pardon me for bringing these ill news,  
Since you did leave it for my office, sir.

ROMEO.

Is it even so? then I defy you, stars!  
Thou know'st my lodging: get me ink and paper,  
And hire post-horses; I will hence to-night.

BALTHASAR.

I do beseech you, sir, have patience:  
Your looks are pale and wild, and do import  
Some misadventure.

ROMEO.

Tush, thou art deceived:  
Leave me, and do the thing I bid thee do.

Hast thou no letters to me from the friar?

BALTHASAR.

No, my good lord.

ROMEO.

No matter : get thee gone,  
And hire those horses ; I 'll be with thee straight.

Exit Balthasar

Well, Juliet, I will lie with thee to-night.  
Let 's see for means : O mischief, thou art swift  
To enter in the thoughts of desperate men !  
I do remember an apothecary, —  
And hereabouts he dwells, — which late I noted  
In tatter'd weeds, with overwhelming brows,  
Culling of simples ; meagre were his looks,  
Sharp misery had worn him to the bones :  
And in his needy shop a tortoise hung,  
An alligator stuff'd, and other skins  
Of ill-shap'd fishes ; and about his shelves  
A beggarly account of empty boxes,  
Green earthen pots, bladders and musty seeds,  
Remnants of packthread and old cakes of roses,  
Were thinly scatter'd to make up a show.  
Noting this penury, to myself I said  
" An if a man did need a poison now,  
Whose sale is present death in Mantua,  
Here lives a caitiff wretch would sell it him. "  
O, this same thought did but forerun my need ;  
And this same needy man must sell it me.  
As I remember, this should be the house.



Being holiday,\*the beggar's shop is shut.  
What, ho! apothecary!

*Enter* APOTHECARY.

APOTHECARY.

Who calls so loud?

ROMEO.

Come hither, man. I see that thou art poor  
Hold, there is forty ducats : let me have  
A dram of poison, such soon-speeding gear  
As will disperse itself through all the veins  
That the life-weary taker may fall dead  
And that the trunk may be discharg'd of breath  
As violently as hasty powder fir'd  
Doth hurry from the fatal cannon's womb.

APOTHECARY.

Such mortal drugs I have ; but Mantua's law  
Is death to any he that utters them.

ROMEO.

Art thou so bare and full of wretchedness,  
And fear'st to die? famine is in thy cheeks,  
Need and oppression stareth in thine eyes,  
Contempt and beggary hangs upon thy back ;  
The world is not thy friend nor the world's law ;  
The world affords no law to make thee rich ;  
Then be not poor, but break it, and take this.

APOTHECARY.

My poverty, but not my will, consents.

ROMEO.

I pay thy poverty, and not thy will.

APOTHECARY.

Put this in any liquid thing you will,  
And drink it off; and, if you had the strength  
Of twenty men, it would dispatch you straight.

ROMEO.

There is thy gold, worse poison to men's souls,  
Doing more murther in this loathsome world,  
Than these poor compounds that thou mayst not sell  
I sell thee poison; thou hast sold me none.  
Farewell : buy food, and get thyself in flesh.  
Come, cordial and not poison, go with me  
To Juliet's grave; for there must I use thee.

Exeunt

## SCENE II

VERONA. — FRIAR LAURENCE'S CELL.

*Enter* FRIAR JOHN.

FRIAR JOHN.

Holy Franciscan friar! brother, ho!

*Enter* FRIAR LAURENCE.

FRIAR LAURENCE.

This same should be the voice of Friar John.  
Welcome from Mantua : what says Romeo?  
Or, if his mind be writ, give me his letter.

FRIAR JOHN.

Going to find a bare-foot brother out,

One of our order, to associate me,  
Here in this city visiting the sick,  
And finding him, the searchers of the town,  
Suspecting that we both were in a house  
Where the infectious pestilence did reign,  
Seal'd up the doors, and would not let us forth;  
So that my speed to Mantua there was stay'd.

FRIAR LAURENCE.

Who bare my letter, then, to Romeo?

FRIAR JOHN.

I could not send it, — here it is again, —  
Nor get a messenger to bring it thee,  
So fearful were they of infection.

FRIAR LAURENCE.

Unhappy fortune! by my brotherhood,  
The letter was not nice but full of charge  
Of dear import, and the neglecting it  
May do much danger. Friar John, go hence,  
Get me an iron crow, and bring it straight  
Unto my cell.

FRIAR JOHN.

Brother, I'll go and bring it thee.

Exit.

FRIAR LAURENCE.

Now must I to the monument alone;  
Within this three hours will fair Juliet wake:  
She will beshrew me much that Romeo  
Hath had no notice of these accidents;  
But I will write again to Mantua,

And keep her at my cell till Romeo come ;  
Poor living corse, closed in a dead man's tomb !

Exit

## SCENE III

A CHURCHYARD; IN IT A TOMB BELONGING TO THE CAPULETS.

*Enter PARIS, and his PAGE bearing flowers and a torch.*

PARIS.

Give me thy torch, boy : hence, and stand aloof :  
Yet put it out, for I would not be seen.  
Under yond yew-trees lay thee all along,  
Holding thine ear close to the hollow ground ;  
So shall no foot upon the churchyard tread,  
Being loose, unfirm, with digging up of graves,  
But thou shalt hear it : whistle then to me,  
As signal that thou hear'st something approach.  
Give me those flowers. Do as I bid thee, go.

PAGE. *aside.*

I am almost afraid to stand alone  
Here in the churchyard ; yet I will adventure.

*Retires.*

PARIS.

Sweet flower, with flowers thy bridal bed I strew, —  
O woe ! thy canopy is dust and stones ; —  
Which with sweet water nightly I will dew,  
Or, wanting that, with tears distill'd by moans :

The obsequies that I for thee will keep  
 Nightly shall be to strew thy grave and weep.

*The Page whistles*

The boy gives warning something doth approach.  
 What cursed foot wanders this way to-night,  
 To cross my obsequies and true love's rite?  
 What, with a torch! muffle me, night, awhile,

*Retires.*

*Enter ROMEO and BALTHASAR, with a torch, mattock, etc.*

ROMEO.

Give me that mattock and the wrenching iron.  
 Hold, take this letter; early in the morning  
 See thou deliver it to my lord and father.  
 Give me the light : upon thy life, I charge thee,  
 Whate'er thou hear'st or seest, stand all aloof,  
 And do not interrupt me in my course.  
 Why I descend into this bed of death,  
 Is partly to behold my lady's face;  
 But chiefly to take thence from her dead finger  
 A precious ring, a ring that I must use  
 In dear employment : therefore hence, be gone :  
 But if thou, jealous, dost return to pry  
 In what I further shall intend to do,  
 By heaven, I will tear thee joint by joint  
 And strew this hungry churchyard with thy limbs :  
 The time and my intents are savage-wild,  
 More fierce and more inexorable far  
 Than empty tigers or the roaring sea.

BALTHASAR.

I will be gone, sir, and not trouble you.

ROMEO.

So shalt thou show me friendship. Take thou that :  
Live, and be prosperous : and farewell, good fellow.

BALTHASAR, *aside*.

For all this same, I 'll hide me hereabout ·  
His looks I fear, and his intents I doubt.

*Retires.*

ROMEO.

Thou detestable maw, thou womb of death,  
Gorg'd with the dearest morsel of the earth,  
Thus I enforce thy rotten jaws to open,  
And, in despite, I 'll cram thee with more food!

*Opens the tomb.*

PARIS.

This is that banish'd haughty Montague,  
That murder'd my love's cousin, with which grief,  
It is supposed, the fair creature died ;  
And here is come to do some villanous shame  
To the dead bodies : I will apprehend him.

*Comes forward.*

Stop thy unhallow'd toil, vile Montague !  
Can vengeance be pursued further than death ?  
Condemned villain, I do apprehend thee :  
Obey, and go with me ; for thou must die.

ROMEO.

I must indeed ; and therefore came I hither.  
Good gentle youth, tempt not a desperate man ·  
Fly hence, and leave me, think upon these gone :

*Let them alight thee. I beseech thee, youth,  
 Put not another sin upon my head,  
 By urging me to fury: O, be gone!  
 By heaven, I love thee better than myself;  
 For I come hither arm'd against myself:  
 Stay not, be gone; live, and hereafter say,  
 A madman's mercy bade thee run away.*

PARIS.

I do defy thy conjurations,  
 And apprehend thee for a felon here

ROMEO.

Wilt thou provoke me? then have at thee, boy!

They fight.

PAGE

O Lord, they fight! I will go call the watch

Exit.

PARIS.

O, I am slain!

Falls

If thou be merciful,  
 Open the tomb, lay me with Juliet

ROMEO.

In faith, I will. Let me peruse this face  
 Mercutio's kinsman, noble County Paris!  
 What said my man, when my betossed soul  
 Did not attend him as we rode? I think  
 He told me Paris should have married Juliet.  
 Said he not so? or did I dream it so?  
 Or am I mad, hearing him talk of Juliet,

To think it was so? O, give me thy hand,  
 One writ with me in sour misfortune's book!  
 I'll bury thee in a triumphant grave;  
 A grave? O, no! a lantern, slaughter'd youth,  
 For here lies Juliet, and her beauty makes  
 This vault a feasting presence full of light  
 Death lie thou there, by a dead man interr'd

Laying Paris in the tomb

How oft when men are at the point of death  
 Have they been merry! which their keepers call  
 A lightning before death. O, how may I  
 Call this a lightning? O my love! my wife!  
 Death hath suck'd the honey of thy breath,  
 Hath had no power yet upon thy beauty:  
 Thou art not conquer'd; beauty's ensign yet  
 I crimson in thy lips and in thy cheeks,  
 And death's pale flag is not advanced there.  
 Tybalt, liest thou there in thy bloody sheet?  
 O, what more favour can I do to thee,  
 Than with that hand that cut thy youth in twain  
 To sunder his that was thine enemy?  
 Forgive me, cousin! Ah, dear Juliet,  
 Why art thou yet so fair? shall I believe  
 That unsubstantial death is amorous,  
 And that the lean abhorred monster keeps  
 Thee here in dark to be his paramour?  
 For fear of that, I still will stay with thee,  
 And never from this palace of dim night  
 Depart again: here, here will I remain  
 With worms that are thy chamber-maids; O, here



Will I set up my everlasting rest,  
 And shake the yoke of inauspicious stars  
 From this world-wearied flesh. Eyes, look your last!  
 Arms, take your last embrace! and, lips, O you  
 The doors of breath, seal with a righteous kiss  
 A dateless bargain to engrossing death!  
 Come, bitter conduct, come, unsavoury guide.  
 Thou desperate pilot, now at once run on  
 The dashing rocks thy sea-sick weary bark!  
 Here 's to my love!

Drink.

O true apothecary!  
 Thy drugs are quick. Thus with a kiss I die.

Dies.

*Enter, at the other end of the churchyard, FRIAR LAURENCE,  
 with a lantern, crow, and spade.*

FRIAR LAURENCE.

Saint Francis be my speed! how oft to-night  
 Have my old feet stumbled at graves! Who 's there?

BALTHASAR

Here 's one, a friend, and one that knows you well.

FRIAR LAURENCE.

Bliss be upon you! Tell me, good my friend,  
 What torch is yond, that vainly lends his light  
 To grubs and eyeless skulls? as I discern,  
 It burneth in the Capels' monument.

BALTHASAR.

It doth so, holy sir; and there 's my master,  
 One that you love.

FRIAR LAURENCE.

Who is it?

BALTHASAR.

Romeo.

FRIAR LAURENCE.

How long hath he been there?

BALTHASAR.

Full half an hour.

FRIAR LAURENCE.

Go with me to the vault.

BALTHASAR.

I dare not, sir

My master knows not but I am gone hence,

And fearfully did menace me with death,

    I did stay to look on his intents.

FRIAR LAURENCE.

Stay, then; I'll go alone—Fear comes upon me:

    O, much I fear some ill unlucky thing.

BALTHASAR.

As I did sleep under this yew-tree here,

I dreamt my master and another fought;

    And that my master should slew him.

FRIAR LAURENCE.

*Advances.*

Alack, alack—what blood is this, which stains

The stony entrance of this sepulchre?

What mean these masterless and gory swords

To lie discolour'd by this place of peace?

*Enters the tomb.*

Romeo! O, pale! Who else? what, Paris too?  
And steep'd in blood? Ah, what an unkind hour  
Is guilty of this lamentable chance!  
The lady stirs.

\*

Juliet wakes.

JULIET.

O comfortable friar! where is my lord?  
I do remember well where I should be,  
And there I am. Where is my Romeo?

Noise within

FRIAR LAURENCE.

I hear some noise. Lady, come from that nest  
Of death, contagion, and unnatural sleep:  
A greater power than we can contradict  
Hath thwarted our intents. Come, come away.  
Thy husband in thy bosom there lies dead;  
And Paris too. Come, I'll dispose of thee  
Among a sisterhood of holy nuns -  
Stay not to question, for the watch is coming;  
Come, go, good Juliet,

Noise again

I dare no longer stay.

Exit Friar Laurence.

JULIET.

Go, get thee hence, for I will not away.  
What's here? a cup, clos'd in my true love's hand?  
Poison, I see, hath been his timeless end:  
O churl! drunk all, and left no friendly drop  
To help me after? I will kiss thy lips;









Haply some poison yet doth hang on them,  
To make me die with a restorative.

*Kisses him*

Thy lips are warm.

FIRST WATCH, *within*.

Lead, boy : which way ?

JULIET.

Yea, noise? then I'll be brief. O happy dagger!

*Snatching Romeo's dagger*

This is thy sheath ;

*Stabs herself*

there rust, and let me die.

*Falls on Romeo's body, and dies.*

*Enter* WATCH, *with the* PAGE *of* PARIS.

PAGE.

This is the place; there, where the torch doth burn.

FIRST WATCH.

The ground is bloody; search about the churchyard  
Go, some of you, whoe'er you find attach.

*Exeunt some*

Pitiful sight! here lies the county slain;  
And Juliet bleeding, warm, and newly dead,  
Who here hath lain these two days buried.  
Go, tell the Prince : run to the Capulets :  
Raise up the Montagues : some others search

*Exeunt others,*

We see the ground whereon these woes do lie;



But the true ground of all these piteous woes  
We cannot without circumstance descry.

*Re-enter some of the WATCH, with BALTHASAR*

SECOND WATCH.

Here 's Romeo's man; we found him in the churchyard.

FIRST WATCH.

Hold him in safety, till the Prince come hither.

*Re-enter others of the WATCH, with FRIAR LAURENCE.*

THIRD WATCH.

Here is a friar, that trembles, sighs, and weeps.  
We took this mattock and this spade from him,  
As he was coming from this churchyard side.

FIRST WATCH.

A great suspicion : stay the friar too.

*Enter the PRINCE and ATTENDANTS.*

PRINCE.

What misadventure is so early up,  
That calls our person from our morning's rest?

*Enter CAPULET, LADY CAPULET, and others.*

CAPULET.

What should it be, that they so shriek abroad?

LADY CAPULET.

The people in the street cry Romeo,  
Some Juliet, and some Paris; and all run,  
With open outcry, toward our monument

PRINCE.

What fear is this which startles in our ears?

FIRST WATCH.

Sovereign, here lies the County Paris slain;  
And Romeo dead; and Juliet, dead before,  
Warm and new kill'd.

PRINCE.

Search, seek, and know how this foul murder comes

FIRST WATCH.

Here is a friar, and slaughter'd Romeo's man;  
With instruments upon them, fit to open  
These dead men's tombs.

CAPULET.

O heavens! O wife, look how our daughter bleeds!  
This dagger hath mista'en, — for, lo, his house  
Is empty on the back of Montague, —  
And is mis-sheathed in my daughter's bosom!

LADY CAPULET.

O me! this sight of death is as a bell,  
That warns my old age to a sepulchre.

*Enter MONTAGUE and others.*

PRINCE.

Come, Montague; for thou art early up,  
To see thy son and heir more early down.

MONTAGUE.

Alas, my liege, my wife is dead to-night;  
Grief of my son's exile hath stopp'd her breath:  
What further woe conspires against mine age?

*Romeo and Juliet.*

26

PRINCE.

Look, and thou shalt see.

MONTAGUE.

O thou untaught! what manners is in this,  
To press before thy father to a grave?

PRINCE.

Seal up the mouth of outrage for a while,  
Till we can clear these ambiguities,  
And know their spring, their head, their true descent:  
And then will I be general of your woes,  
And lead you even to death: meantime forbear,  
And let mischance be slave to patience.  
Bring forth the parties of suspicion.

PRIAR LAURENCE.

I am the greatest, able to do least,  
Yet most suspected, as the time and place  
Doth make against me, of this dreadful murder,  
And here I stand, both to impeach and purge  
Myself condemned and myself excus'd.

PRINCE.

Then say at once what thou dost know in this.

PRIAR LAURENCE.

I will be brief, for my short date of breath  
Is not so long as is a tedious tale.  
Romeo, there dead, was husband to that Juliet;  
And she, there dead, that Romeo's faithful wife:  
I married them, and their still'n marriage-day  
Was Tybalt's dooms-day, whose untimely death  
Banish'd the new-made bridegroom from this city,  
For whom, and not for Tybalt, Juliet pin'd.

You, to remove that siege of grief from her,  
Betroth'd and would have married her perforce  
To County Paris : then comes she to me,  
And, with wild looks, bid me devise some mean  
To rid her from this second marriage,  
Or in my cell there would she kill herself.  
Then gave I her, so tutor'd by my art,  
A sleeping potion ; which so took effect  
As I intended, for it wrought on her  
The form of death : meantime I writ to Romeo.  
That he should hither come as this dire night,  
To help to take her from her borrow'd grave.  
Being the time, the potion's force should cease.  
But he which bore my letter, Friar John,  
Was stay'd by accident, and yesternight  
Return'd my letter back. Then all alone  
At the prefixed hour of her waking,  
Came I to take her from her kindred's vault :  
Meaning to keep her closely at my cell,  
Till I conveniently could send to Romeo :  
But when I came, some minute ere the time  
Of her awaking, here untimely lay  
The noble Paris and true Romeo dead.  
She wakes ; and I entreated her come forth,  
And bear this work of heaven with patience .  
But then a noise did scare me from the tomb ;  
And she, too desperate, would not go with me,  
But, as it seems, did violence on herself.  
All this I know ; and to the marriage  
Her nurse is privy : and, if aught in this

Miscarried by my fault, let my old life  
Be sacrificed, some hour before his time,  
Unto the rigour of severest law.

PRINCE.

We still have known thee for a holy man.  
Where 's Romeo's man? what can he say in this?

BALTHASAR.

I brought my master news of Juliet's death;  
And then in post he came from Mantua  
To this same place, to this same monument.  
This letter he early bid me give his father,  
And threaten'd me with death, going in the vault,  
If I departed not and left him there.

PRINCE.

Give me the letter, I will look on it.  
Where is the county's page, that rais'd the watch?  
Sirrah, what made your master in this place?

PAGE.

He came with flowers to strew his lady's grave;  
And bid me stand aloof, and so I did:  
Anon comes one with light to ope the tomb;  
And by and by my master drew on him;  
And then I ran away to call the watch.

PRINCE.

This letter doth make good the friar's words,  
Their course of love, the tidings of her death.  
And here he writes that he did buy a poison  
Of a poor 'pothecary, and therewithal.  
Came to this vault to die, and lie with Juliet.

Where be these enemies? Capulet! Montague!  
See, what a scourge is laid upon your hate,  
That heaven finds means to kill your joys with love.  
And I for winking at your discords too  
Have lost a brace of kinsmen : all are punish'd.

CAPULET.

O brother Montague, give me thy hand :  
This is my daughter's jointure, for no more  
Can I demand.

MONTAGUE.

But I can give thee more .  
For I will raise her statue in pure gold ;  
That while Verona by that name is known,  
There shall no figure at such rate be set  
As that of true and faithful Juliet.

CAPULET.

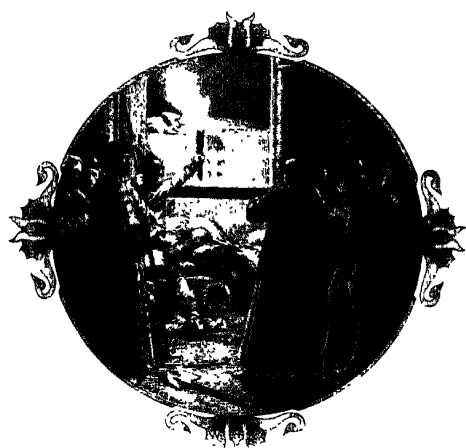
As rich shall Romeo's by his lady's lie ;  
Poor sacrifices of our enmity!

PRINCE.

A glooming peace this morning with it brings ;  
The sun, for sorrow, will not show his head :  
Go hence, to have more talk of these sad things,  
Some shall be pardon'd, and some punished .  
For never was a story of more woe  
Than this of Juliet and her Romeo.

Exeunt.









# GLOSSARY AND NOTES

BY J. THOMSON

## ACT I

Page 3, line 12 — *Two hours* — the probable duration of a Drama in Shakespeare's time; see Prologue to "Henry VIII."

5, 1 — *Carry coals* — put up with insults; Carriers of coals were esteemed the lowest of menials.

7, 7 — *Poor John* — a sorry dish of a fish called hake, an inferior sort of cod, eaten by servants during Lent.

7, 16. — *Bite my thumb* — a mode of quarrelling common to Shakespeare's time, originally peculiar to Italy.

11, 17. — *Free-town* — a translation of Villa Franca, the name used in Brooke's poem of *Romeus and Juliet*, published in 1562.

15, 1. — *Creath* . should be *created*, *create* improperly introduces a couplet amidst blank verse.

15, 9 — *Either gentle cousin* should be read after *Why*, or, *Benvolio* after *such*.

15, 14 — The line that rhymed with this is lost.

16, 4. — *Me who . she is you love* apparently dropped.

17, 12 — *Hers exquisite* . elliptical for *to call hers, which is exquisite, the more into contemplation*.

18, 9. — *Fourteen years* : In Brooke's poem Capulet says *XVI yeres*; and in the Palace of Pleasure, the age is given as *not yet attayned to the age of XVIII yeares*.

18, 13. — *Early made* : should be *early marr'd* as in first quarto, the play upon the *marr'd* and *marri'd* seems more likely than the repetition of *made* the last word of the previous line.

18, 15. — *Of my càrth* : meaning, *hopeful lady of my world, my life*.

19, 13. — A much disputed line. The reading in the text has the authority of the first quarto. *One* was regarded as no number. The conceit is obscurely expressed.

20, 1? — *God-den* : a corruption of *good-e'en* for good evening; which salutation was used as soon as noon was past, after which time good-morrow, or good-day, was esteemed improper.

21, 3. — This, and the lines down to *Helena* though written as prose, are in verse. *Anselme* must be read *Anselmo* : and the word *and* inserted before *Livia* as in first quarto.

22, 1. — *Crush a cup* as we now say, crack a bottle.

22, 15. — *Tut* : probably written *Tut! tut!* as required by the metre.

24, 2. — *Teen* : sorrow.

24, 4. — *Lammas-tide* : the first of August.

24, 12. — *Eleven years* : much discussion has been had to prove that Shakespeare referred to an earthquake felt in England in April 1580. The Nurse's reckonings cannot be made to tally.

24, 22. — *Quoth the dove-house* : refers to the effect of the earthquake.

26, 11. — *Your mother* : according to the strict letter this would make Lady Capulet 26 or 27 while Capulet is at least

three-score Shakespeare evidently described Juliet's mother as being considerably older than 27

27, 21. — *County* count.

28, 9. — *Entrance* here a trisyllable

29, 22 — *Senseless rushes* in Shakespeare's time it was the custom to strew rooms, and the stage with rushes.

30, 4. — *Dun's the mouse* apparently, keep still; but the meaning of the phrase is wholly lost

30, 6 — *Su-reverence* for *sare-reverence*

30, 7 — *Burn daylight* waste time.

31, 13. — *Round little worm* when maids were idle, it was believed that worms bred in their fingers

31, 24 — *Sweetmeats* kissing compliments, or, artificial aids to sweeten the breath.

31, 8 — *Plats the manes* believed to be a common trick of malignant spirits for the annoyance of man and beast

33, 9 — *Strike, drum* a stage direction only, to change the scene

33, 16. — *Morch-pane* a kind of almond cake, a favourite dessert

34, 16 — *A hall, a hall* make room, as we now cry, a ring! a ring!

36, 6. — *Fleet* : sweet, quick.

38, 15. — *Portly* well behaved Not, necessarily, of large carriage

37, 11 — *Contrary* accented on second syllable; this is the only instance of the verb in Shakespeare

37, 12. — *Pfincor* a coxcomb

39, 12. — *Is it e'en so* according to the old stage direction "they whisper in his eare", their reason for going, to which this is his assent.

## ACT II

43, 1 — The Prologue, in the Quartos and Folios, ends Act I.

44, 6 — *Dull earth* · Romeo's earthly self.

45, 10 — *Ape* · used like *poor fool*.

46, 6. — *Poperin pear* · a poor pear from Poperingues in France.

46, 11. — *He jests* · this is Romeo's soliloquized answer to Mercutio, to whom he had refused to disclose himself.

48, 7. — *Thou art thyself* · i. e. Montague or not, you would be the same, would be Romeo's true self

48, 12 — *Name* · reads *word* except in first quarto.

49, 3. — *Tear the word* · as an actor would tear up or change a part he disliked.

50, 13 — *Farewell compliment* · away with formality.

51, 14. — *Contract* · as a noun it is accented variably on either syllable, as a verb always on the second syllable.

52, 15. — *Afeard* · used interchangeably with *afraid*.

54, 2. — *Tassel-gentle* · a prized male hawk appropriated to a Prince : therefore selected by Juliet to represent her Romeo.

55, 16. — *Dear hap* · good fortune · the first quarto has *good hap*

56, 15. — *Muckle* · much.

57, 3. — *With that part* · with the olfactory nerves, or sense of smell.

58, 3. — *Sudden haste* · it imports me much to be speedy.

61, 3. — *Dares, being dared* · a play of words, on dare, to venture, and dare, to challenge.

61, 6. — *Pin* : the white mark, at which, in archery, the arrows were aimed, was fastened by a black pin in the centre.

61, 7. — *Buttschaft* : an arrow formed without a barb so as to be easily extracted.

61, 10. — *Prince of cats* Tybert, which is the same as Tybalt, is the name of the cat in "Reynard the Fox".

61, 11. — *Captain of complements* : versed in punctilios.

61, 12. — *Pricksong* as you sing from notes : written music.

61, 17. — *Hai* a home-thrust, from the Italian *tu hai*, thou hast it.

61, 22. — *Grandsire* : used in railleury of Benvolio's staidness.

62, 3. — *Their bones, their bones* in ridicule of coxcombs who cry out continually *bon, bon*, in affected ecstasy over every trifle.

62, 5. — *Without his roe* that is but half himself; that is sighing Romeo [me oh!] in pure love-sickness.

62, 12. *French slop* : large loose breeches, like the German "slops" in "Much Ado" Act III, sc. II.

63, 5. — *Pink for flower* : very mild joke on shoes or pumps being pinked or punched with holes; pumps decorated with ribbons were said to be pinked.

63, 16. — *Wild-geese chase* a kind of follow-my-leader horse-race which resembled a flight of wild geese.

64, 5. — *Bite thee by the ear* a common playful expression in Shakespeare's time.

64, 6. — *Good goose, bite not* a proverbial phrase; see Ray's proverbs.

64, 7. — *Bitter sweeting* a kind of apple.

64, 10. — *Cheveril* : a soft leather used for gloves.

- 64, 13. — *Broad goose* : the meaning of the joke is lost.
- 64, 20. — *Against the hair* : or, as we now say, " against the grain ".
- 66, 2. — *Prick of noon* . point of noon.
- 66, 15. — *Confidence* . the Nurse's misuse of a word, she meaning to say *conference*.
- 66, 16. — *Indite* : used, in ridicule of the Nurse, for *invite*.
- 67, 12. — *Lady, lady, lady* . the fag end of an old ballad entitled " Susannah ".
- 67, 15. — *Ropery* . used anciently in the sense of roguery.
- 67, 22. — *Flirt-gills* . same as *flirting Jills*.
- 68, 1. — *Skains-mates* . skain, in Kent, formerly meant same as scape-grace does now-a-days.
- 69, 10. — *Tackled stair* . a rope-ladder.
- 70, 7. — *Rosemary* . the symbol of remembrance.
- 70, 10. — *Dogs' name* . R. has always been called the dog's letter from its rolling sound.
- 71, 16. — *Fare* . move, or, go along.
- 74, 15. — *So smile* . this entire scene has been re-written and has little of Shakespeare about it.

### ACT III

- 78, 23. — *For quarrelling* . same as, *about quarrelling*.
- 79, 14. — *Consort* . a consort was the old term for a company of musicians.
- 80, 2. — *Or reason coldly* . for, *And reason coolly*.
- 81, 1. — *Tender* . cherish, or, regard.

81, 4. — *Alla stoccata* : i. e. Only a thrust with a rapier can carry away this shameful submission.

81, 5. — *Rat-catcher* a sneer at his name Tybalt or Tybert, which means cat.

81, 10. — *Pilcher* a scabbard; from "pilche" a leathern coat.

83, 9. — *Aspir'd* used at that date without any "to" as now.

85, 2 — *Discover* reveal.

86, 6 — *Envious* malicious.

87, 16. — *Runaway's eyes* the hardest phrase, of the Play, to explain. In the Variorum Shakespeare 29 pages are filled with various comments. Runaway is Phorbos, and the explanations filter down to this. Juliet desires that the darkness of night may approach and all wanderers in the public highways go home so that Romeo may reach her chamber untalk'd of and unseen.

88, 3. — *Hood my unmann'd blood* a term employed from falconry; hawks were hooded to quiet them, and were styled unmann'd when not sufficiently trained to know their keeper's voice.

89, 11 — *I* In Shakespeare's time "ay" was written with the bare vowel "I". The words ay, I, and eye, were at that time all pronounced alike.

89, 18 — *God have the mark* the exact meaning and origin of this phrase is lost. Here it is equivalent to, God have mercy.

92, 15 — *Modern* trite, commonplace

92, 19. — *Romeo is banished* the lamentations of Romeo as well as of Juliet over the sentence of banishment want motive as they appear in the play. In the poem of *Romeus and Juliet*, Juliet pleads to accompany Romeo, but he gives various reasons



why she cannot do so. These reasons are left by Shakespeare to the imagination or memory of his audience.

94, 5. — *Vanish'd* : issued.

95, 1. — *Dear mercy* true mercy.

95, 7. — *Courtship* : courtly behaviour.

95, 25. — *Fond* : foolish.

97, 17. — *Deep an O* : grief, affliction

98, 8. — *Concealed* : secretly married.

99, 8 — *On thy birth* : either Romeo must be supposed to have railed on his birth before the scene opens; or Shakespeare copies Brooke's poem too closely. In the poem Romeo had so railed

101, 9 — *So brief to part* : to part so soon.

102, 4 — *Desperate* : overbold, confident

102, 13. — *Earl* an error copied from the poem and novel, earl is an exclusively English title.

104, 16. — *Sweet division* : sweet variations.

104, 18. — *Chang'd eyes* : the lark has dull eyes, but the eyes of the toad are bright and beautiful.

104, 21. — *Hunt's-up* the tune on a horn anciently played to collect the hunters.

106, 3. — *Drinks our blood* it was believed that sighing and sorrow exhausted the blood.

107, 3. — *Weep for* : this line is unmetrical; a word before "feeling" is omitted probably by the printers

108, 10. — *My cousin* : probably *my murder'd cousin*; or better, *my slaughter'd cousin*

110, 2 — *Take me with you* : let me understand you

110, 10. — *Chop-logic* : one who gives twenty words for one; a sophist.

- 110, 12. — *Minion* : a pert or saucy person.  
 110, 14. — *Fettle* : go intently on your business.  
 111, 6. — *Hilding* : base menial.  
 112, 5. — *Mammet* : puppet, doll.  
 112, 5. — *Fortune's tender* : when good fortune presents itself to her.

## ACT IV

- 115, 3. — *To slow his haste* : a much disputed elliptical line. The best reading is, *I am nothing slow, (so as) to slack his haste*  
 117, 15. — *Evening mass* : a slip for vespers.  
 117, 18. — *God shield* : God forbid.  
 118, 13. — *This knife* . Ladies at that time wore knives at their girdles  
 119, 2. — *An* : this word is probably an interpolation.  
 120, 11. — *Two and forty hours* . much useless discussion has been had to time every event as though Shakespeare wrote by a scheduled time table. He was a dramatist and wrote for the stage, judging of broad results. This does not derogate from his supremacy as the first poet of the world.  
 120, 20. — *Drift* : scheme or plan.  
 121, 6. — *Twenty cunning cooks* : Shakespeare apparently forgot how few guests Capulet had just arranged (in Act III, sc. iv) to invite.  
 122, 4. — *Self-will'd harlotry* : a silly wench.  
 122, 16. — *Becomed* : for becoming.  
 124, 8. — *Behoveful* : befitting.

125, 8 -- *Lie thou there* knives were formerly part of the accoutrement of a bride.

125, 28 -- *Fest'ring* corrupting.

126, 3 -- *Mandrakes'* mandrake roots were once supposed to possess a kind of animal life, and when torn from the earth uttered such fearful groans that the person who uprooted one went mad.

126, 16 -- *Pastry* the room where the paste is made

127, 3 -- *Cot-quean* this speech should be given to Lady Capulet, she rebukes her husband for making himself a cot-quean or man-mouldler with woman's matters

127, 8 -- *Mouse-hunt* woman-hunter

127, 10. -- *Jealous-hood* nickname for a jealous old woman.

130, 9 -- *Not let me speak* not let me say more.

130, 10 -- *Come, is the bride* this is spoken by Paris, to whom Capulet addresses the responsive speech.

130, 13 -- *There she lies* should be, *See, where she lies*

130, 14 -- *Deflowered by him* should be *deflowered now by him*

132, 12 -- *Rosemary* this was used both at weddings and at funerals.

133, 6 -- *Heart's ease* a popular tune of the time

133, 10 -- *My heart is full of moe* burthen of the first stanza of 'A pleasant new ballad of Two Lovers'.

133, 11. -- *Merry dump* dump is a melancholy strain of music; merry dump is therefore a purposed contradiction of terms put into the comedian's mouth

134, 2. -- *Gleek* a joke, or a trick

134, 3 -- *Give you the minstrel* the meaning is lost.

134, 20. -- *Pretty* same as *That's very well, but you have not hit it.*

135, 11. — *Jack* : a common fellow, knave; applied to Peter as soon as his back is turned.

135, 12. — *Stay dinner* . wait for dinner.

## ACT V

137, 1. — *Sooth of sleep* . others read ‘ truth ’ and various words, and then seek for farfetched explanations; truth ceases to be truth when flattering; whilst a sooth or augury is naturally enough expressed as flattering.

137, 3 — *My bosom’s lord* My heart.

138, 11. — *Capels’* “ Capel ” and “ Capulet ” are used indiscriminately in “ *Romeo and Juliet* ”

139, 13. — *Alligator stuff’d* part of the usual furniture of an apothecary’s shop.

140, 5. — *Soon-speeding gear* . quick dispatching stuff.

142, 1. — *To associate me* . every filar had a companion assigned him when he went abroad from his House.

142, 13 — *Nice* trifling, or, unimportant.

142, 20. — *Bishrew* ~ scold.

143, 12. — *Stand alone* : some hypercritically suggest “ stay alone ” because Paris had directed him to lie down; the meaning is too clear to need remark or change of expression.

144, 17. — *Dear employment* . action of importance.

144, 24. — *Empty* : hungry.

146, 8. — *Conjurations* : that is, I refuse to depart as thou conjurest me.

147, 4. — *A lantern* : an octagonal turret full of windows.

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147, 10. — *Lightning before death*. a proverbial phrase, the last sudden flickering of life before death.

\* 148, 6. — *Dateless* : limitless, eternal.

148, 13. — *Stumbled at graves* : always regarded as a bad omen.

149, 5. — *I dreamt* : " what happens to a person under the influence of fear will seem to him, when he is recovered from it, like a dream ".

150, 19. — *Timeless* . untimely.

151, 5 — *Rust* : this was changed from *rest* as printed in the first quarto into *rust* in the second quarto ; probably by Shakespeare.

152, 2 — *Circumstance* further particulars.

153, 11. — *On the back* the dagger was worn at the back.

154, 1. — *Look and thou shalt see* probably *Look in this monument and thou shalt see*.

154, 17. — *I will be brief*. Shakespeare was led into this " uninteresting narrative by following Romeus and Juliet too closely "

157, 18. — *Some shall be pardon'd* in the novel the old Nurse is banished for concealing the marriage ; Romeo's servant is set at liberty, he having acted throughout under orders, the apothecary is arrested, tortured, condemned, and hanged ; and Friar Laurence is remitted to a hermitage where after five or six years he closed his life in penitence and tranquillity.

CE LIVRE

A ÉTÉ ACHEVÉ D'IMPRIMER

Le 15 Novembre 1892

POUR

DUPRAT ET C<sup>IE</sup>, ÉDITEURS

PAR

D. JOUAUST

A PARIS









